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P. 297

A
EOGRAPHY
OF
TASMANIA.

By The Rev. H. H. ANDERSON, B.A. (Lond.)

Headmaster of The Hutchins School, Hobart,

Formerly Inspector of Schools, Tasmania.

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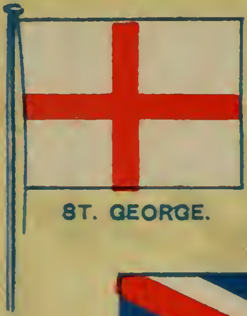
The nine maps above referred to have been produced on one sheet mounted on rollers and varnished, size 28½ x 39. The price of the Book is **2s.** Price of Wall Map, **10s. 6d.**



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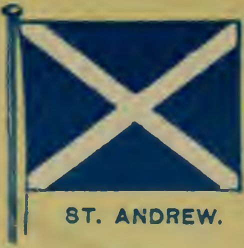

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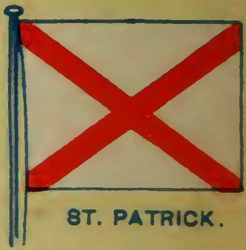

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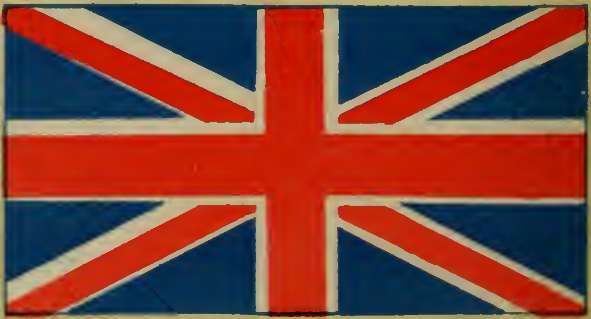

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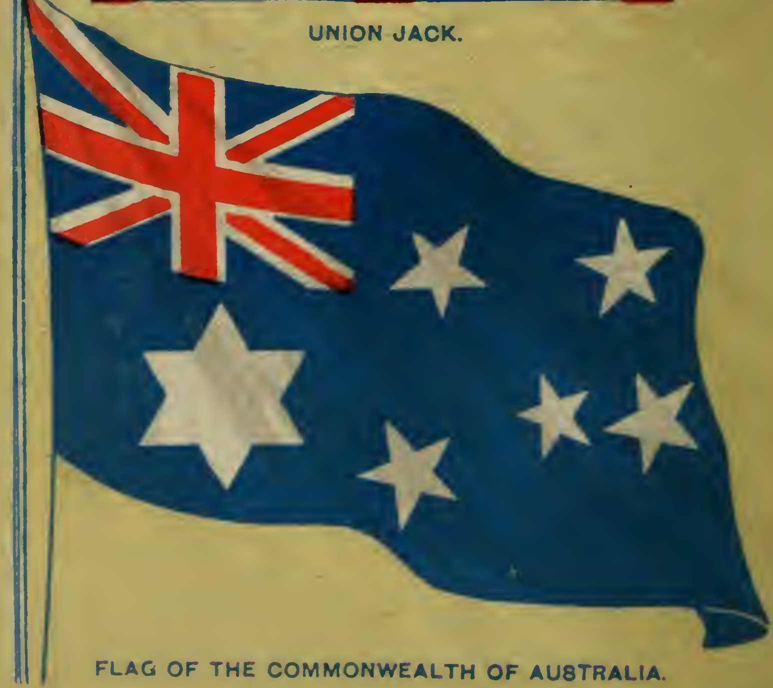

FLAG OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

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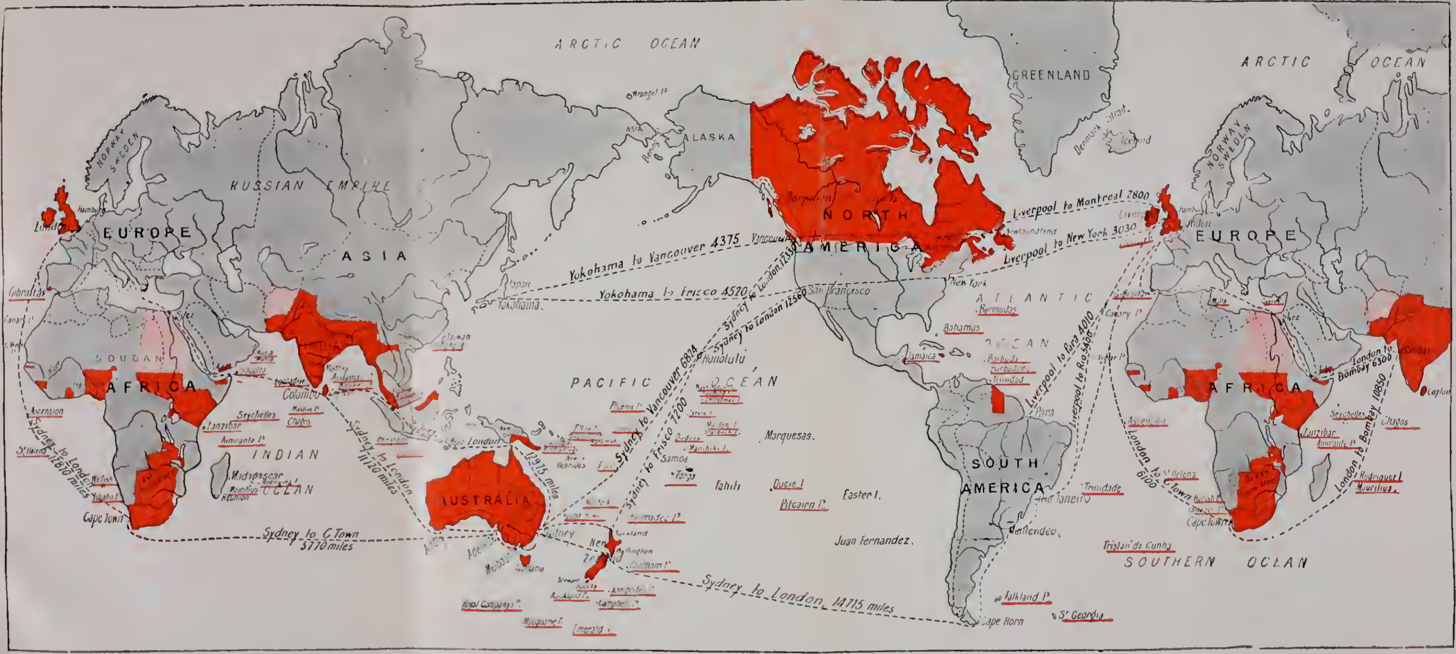

THE WORLD, showing the British Empire (coloured red) and inter-continental trade-routes.

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A

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OF

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PREFACE.

The want of a Geography of Tasmania has long been felt by teachers. Examiners in the public examinations, who have set questions on the geography of the island, have remarked on the ignorance of the candidates of local facts. Nor is this surprising, as with no text work available, teachers have had to trust to their own knowledge, and all have not that knowledge. It is hoped that this little book will supply the want. Considerable space has been given to the industries of the island, for it is now generally admitted that this, rather than dry names of places or divisions of the country, is the important and valuable part of geography. A short history of the island has been added, as at the time this book was undertaken no such history was in existence. The chapter on the Aborigines should be found interesting to the pupils.

The author must express his indebtedness to Mr. R. M. Johnston, I.S.O., F.S.S., Government Statistician and Registrar-General of Tasmania, who has given him most valuable assistance by procuring him all the books, documents, reports, and statistics that he wanted; and also by giving suggestions and advice. Much of the material used has been taken from Mr. Johnston's own works, which were placed at the author's disposal. The list of all the authorities consulted would be too long to give, but mention may be made of the works of Mr. Long Roth and of the late Mr. J. B. Walker, in connection with the Aborigines.

Hutchins School, December, 1905.

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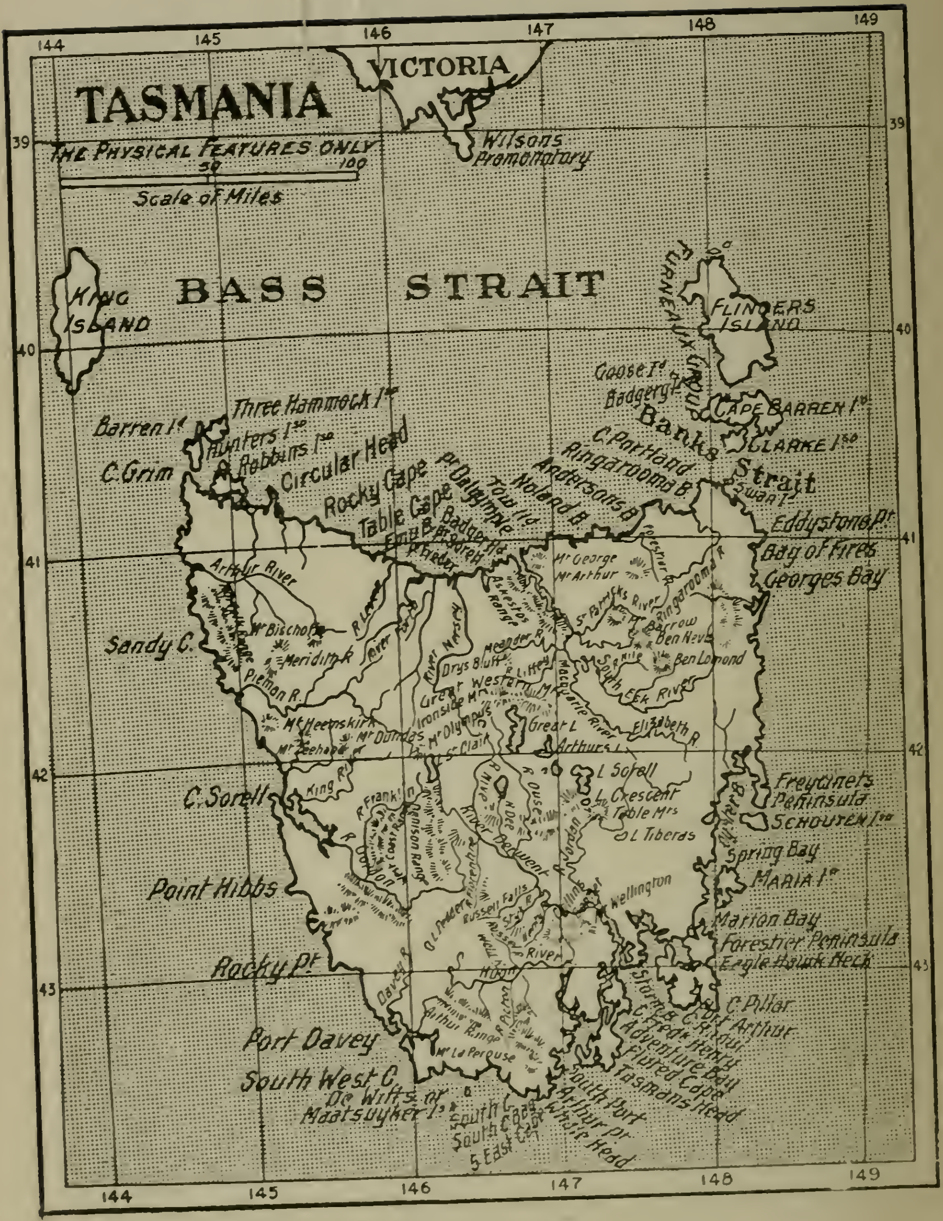
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Banks Strait
Swan Id
Eddystone Pt
Bay of Fires
Georges Bay
Barren Id
Three Hammock Id
Hunters Id
Robbins Id
C. Grim
Circular Head
Rocky Cape
Table Cape
Pt Dalrymple
Tamar R.
Noland B.
Andersons B.
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C. Portland
Emu B.
Badger Hd
Pt Sorell
P. Frederick
Mt George
Mt Arthur
St Patricks River
Ringarooma R.
Mt Barrow
Ben Nevis
Ben Lomond
South Esk River
Arthur River
Mt Bischoff
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Sandy C.
Pieman R.
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Drys Bluff
Meander R.
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Great Western Mts
Ironside Mt
Mt Olympus
Great L.
Arthurs L.
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Elizabeth R.
Mt Heemskirk
Mt Dundas
Mt Zeehan
St Clair
C. Sorell
King R.
R. Franklin
L. Sorell
L. Crescent
Table Mts
L. Tiberias
R. Ouse
R. Dee
R. Derwent
Jordan R.
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Schouten Id
Spring Bay
Maria Id
Wellington
Point Hibbs
R. Gordon
Denison Range
Russell Falls
Marion Bay
Forestier Peninsula
Eagle Hawk Neck
Rocky Pt
Davey R.
Huon
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A Geography of Tasmania.

TASMANIA.

TASMANIA is a heart-shaped island situated in the great Southern Ocean. Its coast line is bold and rugged with many harbours and inlets; its surface is a mass of mountain chains with commanding crags and deep valleys. It is famous for the beauty of its scenery and the evenness of its salubrious climate.

Boundaries and Size.—On the north, Tasmania is separated from Australia by Bass Strait, a stretch of water about 150 miles broad. Its eastern, southern and western shores are washed by the Great Southern Ocean. Its greatest length is about 210 miles and its greatest breadth is 200 miles, and it is a little over 26,000 square miles in area.

It is nearly the same size as Scotland. It lies between the parallels of latitude 40 deg. 33 min. and 43 deg. 39 min. south latitude, and is therefore of corresponding latitude with Northern Spain and Central Italy in the Northern Hemisphere. The latitude of Hobart is about 43 deg., and towns having approximately the corresponding northern latitude are Santiago, Toulon, Varna, Vladivostok, Boston; and in southern latitude, Christchurch in New Zealand.

Name.—Tasmania derives its name from its discoverer, a Dutch navigator, named Tasman. He first landed on its shores in 1642 and named it *Van Diemen's Land*, after the Governor of the Dutch East Indies, who had sent him out on his voyage of discovery. It was known by the latter name till 1853, when transportation ceased and the island was made an independent colony. Its name was then altered to that which it now bears.

There has been considerable alteration of names in Tasmania, and many places are known by two or more names, the older name still being used locally and often more commonly than the later official and postal name. Examples are—Brown's River or Kingston, Wedge Bay or Nubeena, Triabunna, or Spring Bay, Wynyard or Table Cape, Stanley or Circular Head, St. Helen's or George's Bay.

General Configuration.—Tasmania is one of the most mountainous islands in the world, and has well been called the "Switzerland of the South." Speaking generally it consists of a central plateau from three thousand to five thousand feet high, which, at its highest elevation, is comparatively level and on which there are numerous and extensive fresh water lakes. The marginal crests of this table-land are locally known as "Tiers,"* and in the north have a very bold aspect. This plateau rests upon a more extended table-land stretching principally westward, and is from one thousand to two thousand feet in altitude. Its limits follow the coast line more or less closely on the west and north; the space between it and the sea often broadening out into low-lying tracts, not much above sea level. From its surface, here and there, rise isolated peaks, such as Mount Bischoff. Similar, though smaller ridges and plateaus fill the rest of the island except in the centre and north, where there is an extensive plain of rich agricultural land. This plain extends along the North Coast from Cape Grim to Eddystone, varying in breadth from a few miles between Circular Head and Table Cape to forty south of Point Sorell. In the centre of the island it stretches inland between Ben Lomond and Dry's Bluff, steadily rising till at Outlands and Paratah it reaches a height of over thirteen hundred feet. The south-west portion of the island is a mass of mountain ranges.

---

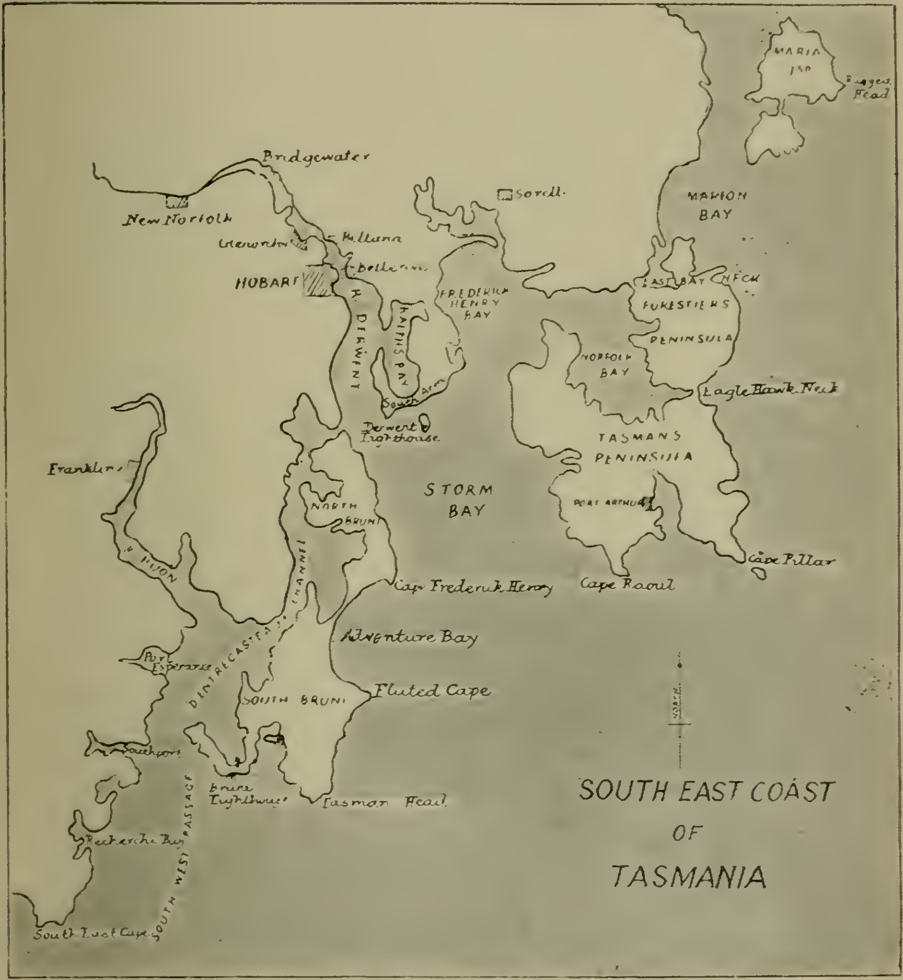
* The name "Tiers" is also applied to other mountain ranges in other parts of the island.

The corners of this central plateau are Dry's Bluff (4275 ft.) on the north-east, Cradle Mountain (5069 ft.), on the north-west, Dennison Range, on the south-west, and Table Mountain (3569 ft.), on the south-east.

The most important stretches of land on the tableland are the Middlesex Plains and the Emu Plains. Of other plateaus, the most important are: that of which Ben Lomond forms the south peak; the southern plateau stretching back from Mount Wellington to Mount Field west, and including La Perouse, Adamson's Peak, and Hartz Mountains. There are small lakes on all of these.

THE COAST LINE.

The Coast of Tasmania is, for the most part, very bold and rugged, especially on the south and west. In some places great mountains rise almost from the water's edge; in others, as at Cape Pillar and Cape Raoul, high cliffs of basaltiform diabase project into the sea. There are numerous inlets and bays, some of them almost landlocked and forming splendid harbours. Starting from the north-west corner the first Cape we should notice is *Cape Grim* at the corner itself. Going south and passing smaller points we come to *West Cape*, then to the mouth of the *Arthur River*, then past *Sandy Cape* and the mouth of the *Pieman*, we reach *Cape Sorell* standing at the head of *Macquarie Harbour*—a magnificent landlocked stretch of water. Formerly the entrance to this harbour was obstructed by a bar which prevented any but comparatively small steamers from entering, but the new harbour works have considerably deepened the channel. Within the harbour is *Sarah Island* which was formerly called *Settlement Island*, as in the old days it was the site of a penal settlement. Two rivers flow into Macquarie Harbour: the *Gordon*, which is navigable for 20 miles by fairly large steamers, and the *King River*. Leaving Macquarie Harbour we pass *Point Hibbs*—a limestone promontory, interesting as being the first point of Tasmania seen by the explorer, Tasman, when he discovered the island in 1642—and *Rocky Point*, and enter *Port Davey*, another fine, land-locked harbour with numerous bays opening from it. At present there is no settlement on its shores, but it often serves as a harbour of refuge for ships and steamers caught by one of those great storms that are not uncommon during the winter season on this coast. It used to be much frequented by the whaling fleet, but that industry has now died out. The south-west point of Tasmania is known as *South West Cape*, and here, turning east, we pass the *Maatsuyker* or *De Witt Islands*, *South Cape* and *South East Cape*. We now turn north-east into the *South West Passage*, and, passing *Recherche Bay*, find *Bruni Island* in front of us. Between Bruni Island and the mainland lies the *D'Entrecasteaux Channel*, a long strip of sea, with numerous bays opening out of it, the most important of which are *Southport* and *Port Esperance*, the latter a fine harbour with several large timber mills upon its shores. It is named after the famous French Admiral Bruny D'Entrecasteaux, who surveyed it in 1792-3. About its centre northwards is the mouth of the *River Huon*. The south point of Bruni is called *Tasman's Head*. Bruni really consists of two islands joined together by a very narrow neck of land, and the bay on the east or ocean side of this neck is called *Adventure Bay*, at the south point of which we should see the high cliffs of *Fluted Cape*, and on the north point *Cape Frederick Henry*. We shall now enter *Storm Bay*, lying between North Bruni and *Tasman's Peninsula*. The *Derwent River* runs into Storm Bay, and, between its mouth and *Frederick Henry Bay*, is a shallow stretch of water, *Ralph's Bay*, almost completely surrounded by *South Arm*. The Australian squadron often comes into Frederick Henry Bay for its manœuvres. Out of the north of this Bay opens a long shallow stretch of water known as *Pitt Water*. Passing through this bay we should enter *Norfolk Bay* at the north of Tasman's Peninsula. Returning round the peninsula we should pass Capes *Raoul* and *Pillar*, great basaltiform diabase masses of rock standing up in bold columns from the water's edge. Between them lies *Port Arthur*, to which still clings the memory of the convict prisons that formerly stood on its shores. Between Tasman's Peninsula and the mainland lies *Forrestier's Peninsula*, connected to the former by a very narrow strip of land called *Eagle Hawk Neck*. This is a favourite resort for tourists, because of its natural beauties and also from its historic associations; for in the convict days a cordon of blood-



hounds was kept on this narrow neck to prevent prisoners, who might have escaped from the convict prison, making their way to the mainland. *Forrestier's Peninsula* is connected to the mainland by another narrow neck called *East Bay Neck*, through which a canal has now been cut. The bay at the north of this peninsula is called *Marion Bay*. Marion Bay, formerly called Frederick Hendrik Bay, is interesting as being the first place where the exploring expedition, under Tasman, landed in 1642, and where the second discoverer, Captain Marion du Fresne, landed nearly 130 years later, in 1772, and stayed for six days. Proceeding up the east coast we pass *Maria Island*, another double island with a narrow neck between its two parts, and a bold headland called *Ragged Head* on its seaward side, *Spring Bay* and *Prossers Bay* on the mainland, just above its northern end, *Schouten Island*, south of *Freycinet's Peninsula*, inside of which lies *Oyster Bay*. Out of Oyster Bay opens *Great Swanport*, famous as the rendezvous of swans. The next opening of importance is *George's Bay*, and passing on through the *Bay of Fires*, we come to *Eddystone Point*, where there is a lighthouse. Turning to the north-west, through *Banks' Strait*, we pass *Swan Island*, where there is another lighthouse. Rounding *Cape Portland* we cross *Ringarooma Bay*, pass *Waterhouse Point*, *Waterhouse Island*, *Anderson's Bay*, *Noland Bay*, and come to *Port Dalrymple*, the mouth of the Tamar, with *Low Head*, and further along the coast, *Badger Head*. Other openings along the coast are *Port Sorell* and *Port Frederick*, and then we come to *Emu Bay*, and last to the three bold capes that stand out prominently, one after the other—*Table Cape*, *Rocky Cape* and *Circular Head*. Before reaching Cape Grim again we should pass through *Hunter's Islands*, which will be dealt with more fully under the heading Islands.

LIST OF THE CAPES.

West Coast.

CAPE GRIM.
SANDY CAPE
CAPE SORELL.
POINT HIBBS.
ROCKY POINT.
SOUTH WEST CAPE.

South Coast.

SOUTH CAPE.
SOUTH EAST CAPE.
TASMAN'S HEAD.
FLUTED CAPE.
CAPE RAOUL.
CAPE PILLAR.

East Coast.

RAGGED HEAD.
EDDYSTONE POINT.

North Coast.

CAPE PORTLAND.
WATERHOUSE POINT.
TAMAR HEAD.
BADGER HEAD.
TABLE CAPE.
ROCKY CAPE.
CIRCULAR HEAD.

LIST OF HARBOURS, BAYS, ETC.

West Coast.

MOUTH OF THE PIEMAN
MACQUARIE HARBOUR.
PORT DAVEY.

South Coast.

SOUTH WEST PASSAGE.
D'ENTRECASTEAUX CHANNEL.
ADVENTURE BAY.
STORM BAY.
ESTUARY OF THE DERWENT.
RALPH'S BAY.
FREDERICK HENRY BAY.
NORFOLK BAY.
PORT ARTHUR.

East Coast.

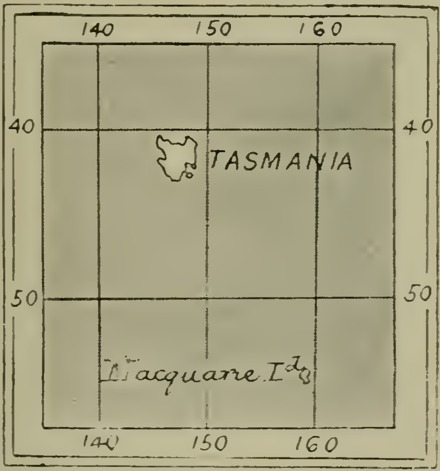
MARION BAY.
SPRING BAY.
OYSTER BAY.
ST. GEORGE'S BAY.
BAY OF FIRES.
BANKS' STRAIT.

North Coast.

RINGAROOMA BAY.
ANDERSON'S BAY.
NOLAND BAY.
PORT DALRYMPLE.
PORT SORELL.
PORT FREDERICK.
EMU BAY.

ISLANDS.

Besides the islands already mentioned as lying near the coast, there are two sets of islands off the north-east and north-west corners of the island respectively. Off the north-east corner lie the *Furneaux* and *Kent* Groups, which are almost in a direct line between Cape Portland and Wilson's Promontory in Victoria. They form one of the links that remain of the mountain range that connected, at a very early period in geological history, the mainland of Australia with Tasmania. Starting from the north-east corner across Banks Strait, we come to *Clarke Island*, north of which lie several islands, the principal of which are *Cape Barren Island*, *Badger Island*, and the small *Goose Island* on which there is a lighthouse; north of this again are *Flinders Island*, the largest of the Tasmanian islands, with several smaller ones. It was to Flinders Island that the aborigines were removed in 1835, where, however, they gradually died out. These islands are now very sparsely inhabited, chiefly by a half-caste population, which makes its living by preserving mutton birds and collecting their eggs. Further north is the *Kent's Group*, the largest of which are *Erith Island* and *Deal Island*.

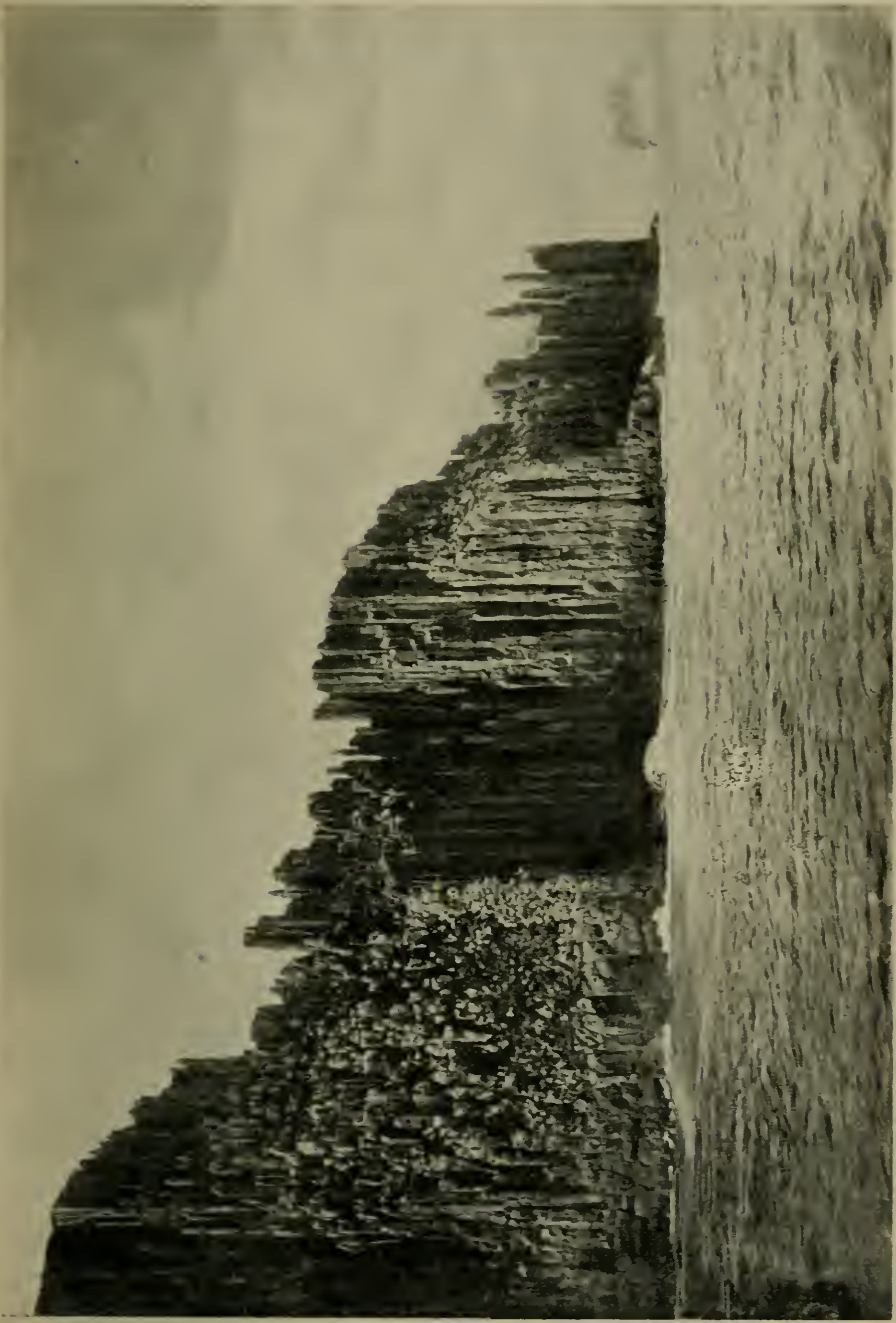


At the north-west corner are *Robbins Island, Barren Island* and *Three Hummock Island*, constituting with smaller islands the *Hunter Group*. North-west of them again lies *King Island*, the only one of the Islands on which there is any considerable amount of settlement. There are also two lighthouses on it, as, in the past, it had an evil notoriety for wrecks. Far to the south lie the *Macquarie Group*, the chief of which is *Macquarie Island*. It is low-lying with not a stick of timber anywhere to be found. It is much resorted to for sealing, and is one of the homes of the giant penguins which are found there in enormous numbers.

"The geological formation of the Furneaux Group is almost exclusively granitic and tertiary, with metamorphic schists and sandstones." This is practically identical with the formation of the north-east corner of Tasmania.

LIGHTHOUSES.

There are numerous lighthouses on the coast of Tasmania and the adjacent islands. On *Kent's Island* there is one nearly 1000 feet above the level of the sea on the trade route from the north of the island to Sydney, which is also of value to the route from Sydney to Melbourne. On King Island there are two, one on the north point of that island, *Cape Wickham*, and one on the west shore at *Currie Harbour*. These lights are of value chiefly to the trade routes from the west to Melbourne; the reason that there are two on this little island is that it is the first land that is sighted by vessels coming from the Cape of Good Hope to Victoria. Off Flinders Island there is a lighthouse on the small *Goose Island*, and another in Banks Strait on *Swan Island*. These are on the route from Melbourne to Hobart. The expense of these five is shared by Tasmania with New South Wales and Victoria. On *Eddystone Point* there is a light, the name of this point having been given it with reference to the well-known lighthouse of the same name in England. The expense of this is shared between Tasmania and Victoria. On the south there are two fine lights at *Maatsuyker*



CAPE RAOUL.

Island and *South Bruni*, which serve for the coastal traffic, and are also on the great trade route from the Cape of Good Hope to New Zealand, via Hobart. There are also lighthouses at *Cape Sorell*, south of Macquarie Harbour, for steamers trading between Strahan and Hobart, at *Table Cape*, *Mersey Bluff* and *Low Head*, and also at the Mouth of the Derwent, the *Derwent Lighthouse*.

There are leading lights marking out the entrances to various harbours or estuaries. These are the leading lights at the *Tamar Heads*, at the *Mouth of the Mersey*, at *Macquarie Harbour*, in the Derwent at *One Tree Point*, and at the end of the *Burnie Breakwater*.

NOTE.—The trade routes will be dealt with later on under commercial geography, though they may be conveniently learnt here in connection with the lighthouses.

LIST OF ISLANDS.

Round the Coast.

MAATSUYKER ISLAND.
BRUNI ,,
SCHOUTEN ,,
SWAN ,,
WATERHOUSE ,,

Furneaux Group.

CAPE BARREN ISLAND.
FLINDERS ,,
CLARKE ,,
BADGER ,,
GOOSE ,,
&c.

Kent's Group.

ERITH ISLAND.
DEAL ,,
&c.

Hunter's Group.

ROBBINS ISLAND.
BARREN ,,
THREE HUMMOCK ,,

KING ISLAND.

Macquarie Group.

MACQUARIE ISLAND.
JUDGE ,,
&c.

MOUNTAINS.

The mountains of Tasmania are a continuation of the Great Cordilleras which border the east coast of Australia and the connection can be traced across Bass Strait, through the chain of islands forming the Furneaux and Kent's Groups. With the exception of the northern and central plain already referred to, the whole surface of the island is mountainous or hilly, broken into ranges by the valleys in which the rivers run. But these ranges are rarely continuous, and it is impossible to give a complete description of them. There are more than 50 peaks over 2500 feet in height and only the most important can be mentioned.

The first point to be noticed is the central plateau to which reference has already been made. Starting northward from the *Dennison Range* the westerly limit of this plateau can be traced along the *King William Range* to *Cradle Mountain* forming a bold and widely undulating margin relatively to the western country. This margin is, however, broken by the elevated outlying spur forming the *Eldon Range*. Cradle Mountain is the highest peak in the island and is 5069 feet in height. Turning east and then south this indented margin presents a still bolder aspect as it towers above the valleys of the Meander and South Esk, forming the *Great Western Mountains*, locally called the *Western Tiers*, the most important peaks of which are the *Ironstone Mountain* (4736ft.), *Dry's Bluff* (4257ft.), *Brady's Lookout* (4497ft.), and *Table Mountain* (3596ft.). On the south, among the headwaters of the Derwent tributaries, the margin is not so boldly defined.

On the south side of the Derwent, between it and the Huon, is a well defined range rising at one end to *Mount Wellington* (4166ft.), and at the other to *Mount Field East* (4167ft.), and *Mount Field West* (4721ft.). In this range is *Collin's Bonnet* (4131ft.).

South of the Huon are ranges running generally east and west, the most important peaks of which are *La Perouse* (3800ft.) and *Adamson's Peak* (4017ft.). The *Hartz Mountains*, noted for their lakes, is the easterly portion of one of these ranges. These ranges culminate at the head waters of the Huon in the *Arthur Range*, east of which is *Mount Picton* (4340ft.).

On the west coast there are several ranges running more or less parallel with the coast known generally as the West Coast Ranges: the highest peak is the *Frenchman's Cap* (4756ft.). These are important because of the mineral deposits found scattered through them, and will be dealt with more fully under the heading, Mineral Fields; but the names may be mentioned here of Mts. *Lyall*, *Dundas*, *Heemskirk* and *Bischoff*. Other ranges in the north-west of the Island are the *Meredith* and *Norfolk* ranges, and the *Surrey Hills*.

On the eastern side of the central plain is another but lower plateau of which *Ben Lomond* (5010ft.) forms the south-western point, and the *Blue Tier*, the north-eastern. Other important peaks are *Mount Barrow* (4644ft.) and *Mount Arthur* in the north-west, and *Ben Nevis*.

Near the mouth of the Tamar are the *Asbestos Range* on the west, and the *Tipperary* Mountains, with *Mount George*, on the east.

The ten highest peaks in the island are *Cradle Mountain* (5069ft.), *Ben Lomond* (5010ft.), *Eldon Range* (4789ft.), *Frenchman's Cap* (4756ft.), *Ironstone Mountain* (4736ft.), *Mount Field West* (called also Mount Humboldt) (4721ft.), *Mount Hugel* (4100ft.), *Mount Olympus* (4680ft.), *Mount Barrow* (4044ft.), *Brady's Look Out* (4497ft.).

NOTE. The ranges mentioned are only the most important ones; there are many others, such as the Dromedary, north of the Derwent. One difficulty in connection with them is that the Government Survey Maps are not complete. These maps are absolutely accurate as far as the peaks named are concerned, but the lower ranges are shown as distinct from one another in cases where there is practically no break. The map in this book is admittedly incomplete, as from its size it was impossible to crowd in more details. A map of Tasmania containing all details would resemble the map of Switzerland as given in such large atlases as the Times Atlas.

RIVERS.

The most important river in the island is the *Derwent*, which rises in Lake St. Clair, under Mt. Olympus, and which, by means of its tributaries, drains most of the Central Plateau as well as the mountain ranges to the south, north of the Huon watershed. It leaves Lake St. Clair already a considerable stream, for into that lake flow several small rivers. It runs south, then south-west and then west, till it reaches its estuary which turns south again at Bridgewater. It receives numerous tributaries, only the most important of which can be noticed. Before it leaves the Central Plateau, the *Nive* from the north and the *Florentine* from the south flow into it. Near the foot of the Plateau it receives the waters of the *Dee*, which drains Lake Echo, and a few miles further on the *Ouse*. The Ouse comes from the Nineteen Lagoons, and its tributary, the *Shannon*, which is really larger than the *Ouse* at the point where they meet, comes from the Great Lake. Further on, and still on the north bank the *Clyde* enters it, bringing the waters of the Lakes Crescent and Sorell. Up to this point the tributaries on the south side have been small, with the exception of the Florentine; but as the high land now recedes from the river bank they become larger and comprise the *Russell's Falls*, the *Styx*, the *Plenty*, and the *Lachlan*. The first of these is so called because of the Falls on a branch of it which form one of the special beauty spots in the island; and this river is also interesting, because it flows out of a limestone cave—the Junee Cave—which has not been explored. The *Plenty* derives importance from the fact that near its mouth are situated the Salmon Ponds or the Fish Hatcheries for Tasmania, where the eggs of trout and salmon are hatched out and the fish bred for distribution in the rivers and lakes throughout the island. One more tributary must be noted, the *Jordan*, which rises in Lake Tiberias, and, after a very winding course, flows in on the north bank just below Bridgewater. The influence of the tides is felt beyond New Norfolk, and the river is navigable to that township. The estuary may be said to commence at or about Bridgewater, and the distance from that place to the Derwent lighthouse, at the mouth of river, is about 25 miles.

The *Huon*, the other important river in the south, rises in the south-west corner of the Mount Field Range on the other side of the watershed to the Florentine and the Styx. It flows south and then turns east by the Arthur Range, where it receives the *Craycroft*. It runs under Mount Picton and is joined by the *Picton*. It now turns north-east, and the *Weld* on the left bank and the *Arve* on the right bank, flow into it. It then turns east again and is joined by the *Russell*. Turning south-east it flows at Huonville into its estuary which runs south and then south-east into the D'Entrecasteaux Channel.

In the north of the island the most important river is the *Tamar*, which is really an estuary or arm of the sea, forty miles long, into the head of which flow the *South Esk* and the *North Esk*. The *South Esk* rises on the pleateau behind Ben Lomond and flows east past Mathinna, then south into the Fingal Valley where it is joined by the *Break o' Day*, a stream which rises beyond St. Mary's, only a few miles from the sea. The main stream then flows in a great broad curve up to Evandale where it is flowing north, having received the *Nile* on the way. Its course from this point, till it flows into the Tamar, is very tortuous though generally north, and it receives on its left bank the *Lake River*, which comes down from the Arthur's Lake and Wood's Lake, and the *Meander*. The Lake River itself has a large tributary the *Macquarie*, which rises in Toom's Lake which again has a tributary the *Elizabeth*. The *Meander*, a sluggish stream, which deserves its name, has a tributary the *Liffey*. The *North Esk* rises not far from the source of the *South Esk*, but while that river flows east, it flows west and then north into the Tamar. It receives one tributary of importance, the *St. Patrick*.

Of the other rivers that flow out along the north coast into Bass Strait the most important are the *Ringarooma*, flowing out at Boobyalla, the *Great Forrester's*, at Bridport, the *Mersey*, with its tributary the *Dasher*, at Devonport, the *Forth*, with its tributary the *Wilmot*, at Leith, and the *Leven*, at Ulverstone. The course of all these rivers is mainly northerly.

The largest of the rivers on the West Coast is the *Gordon*. It rises to the east of King William Mountain and flows south to the end of the Denison range. It there turns west and receives the *Denison*, then north west and flows out into Macquarie Harbour. Its chief tributaries are the *Serpentine*, which comes out of Lake Pedder, and the *Franklin*. It is navigable for twenty miles above its mouth. Of other rivers the *Arthur* rises some little distance beyond Mount Bischoff and flows north and then west. It has numerous tributaries, and so has the *Pieman* which runs parallel to it, a little further south. The *King River* flows into Macquarie Harbour, at Strahan, and the *Davey* into the north of Port Davey.

The only river on the east coast that need be mentioned is the *George's River* flowing into George's Bay, and it is notable for its falls, probably the biggest and most beautiful in the island. The falls are 300 feet in height, and, in flood time, the sight of the foaming torrent leaping down from crag to crag, enveloped in a cloud of mist and spray, is a magnificent one.

LIST OF RIVERS.

THE DERWENT, rising in Lake St. Clair.

Tributaries on Right Bank :

THE NIVE.

THE DEE, rising in Lake Echo.

THE OUSE, rising in the Nineteen Lagoons.

THE SHANNON, rising in the Great Lake

THE CLYDE, rising in Lake Crescent.

THE JORDAN, rising in Lake Tiberias.

Tributaries on Left Bank :

THE FLORENTINE.

THE RUSSELL'S FALLS RIVER.

THE STYX.

THE PLENTY.

THE LACHLAN.

THE HUON.

Tributaries on the Right Bank :

THE WELD.

THE RUSSELL.

Tributaries on the Left Bank :

THE CRAYCROFT.

THE PICTON.

THE ARVE.

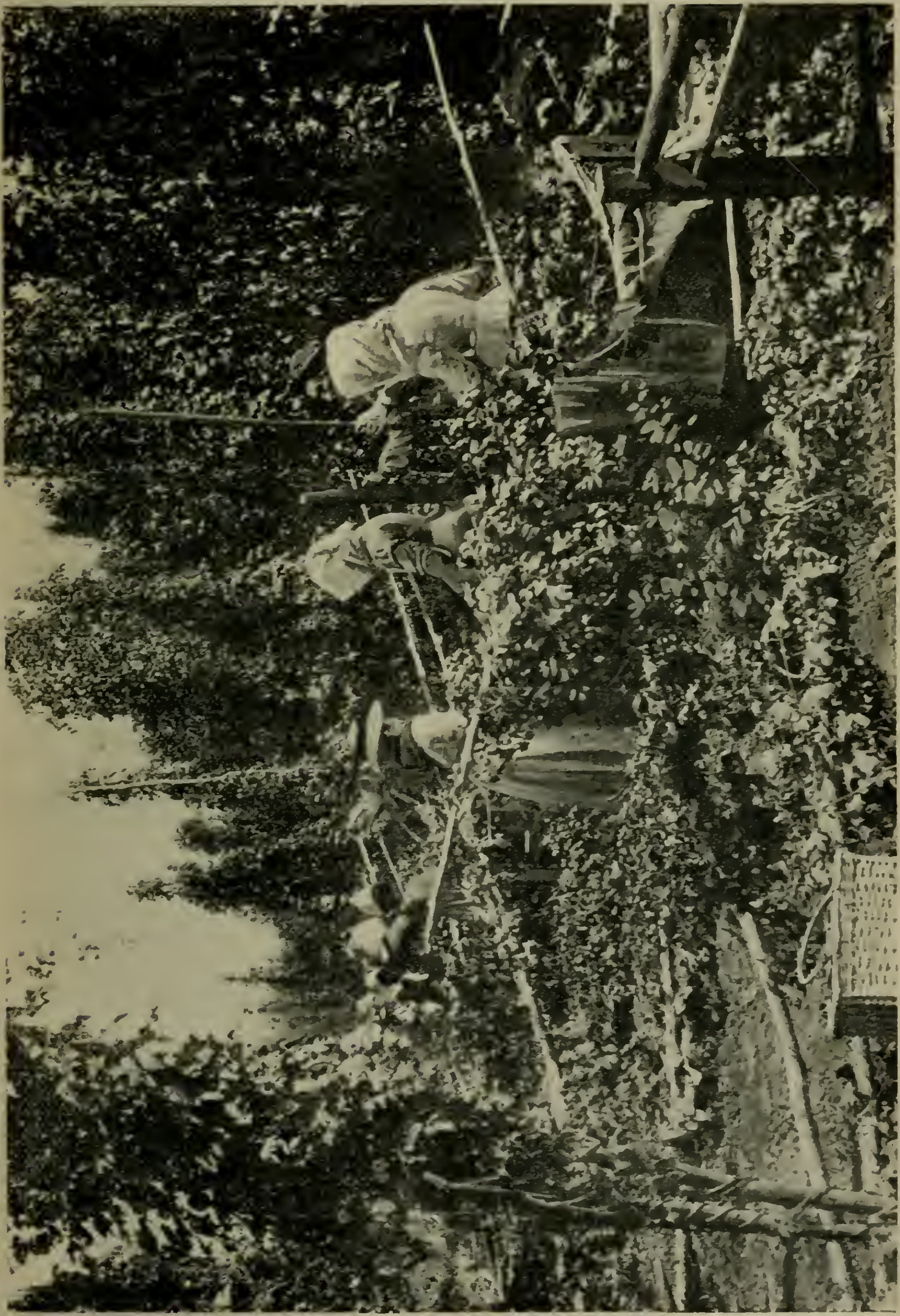
- THE TAMAR.
  - Tributaries on the Right Bank:
    - THE NORTH ESK.
    - THE ST. PATRICK.
  - Tributaries on the Left Bank:
    - THE SOUTH ESK.
      - THE NILE.
      - THE LAKE RIVER.
        - THE MACQUARIE.
          - THE ELIZABETH.
    - THE MEANDER.
    - THE LIFFEY.
- THE RINGAROOMA.
- THE GREAT FORRESTER'S.
- THE MERSEY.
  - THE DASHER.
- THE FORTH.
  - THE WILMOT.
- THE LEVEN.

West Coast.

- THE GORDON.
  - THE SERPENTINE.
  - THE FRANKLIN.
- THE ARTHUR.
- THE PIEMAN.
- THE KING RIVER.
- THE DAVEY.

East Coast.

- THE GEORGE'S RIVER.



HOP PICKING.

LAKES.

Tasmania has more fresh water lakes than all the other Australian States put together. The Central Plateau contains the largest and most important of these but smaller ones are found on most of the smaller plateau. Largest of all is the *Great Lake* from which the Shannon flows. Though not distinguished by any great beauty of scenery it is much resorted to by anglers, for it is one of the finest places for trout fishing in the Southern Hemisphere. *Lake St. Clair*, at the head of the Derwent, is one of the beauty spots of the island, and is much visited by tourists. Other lakes on the Central Plateau are *Lake Echo*, at the head of the Dee, the twin *Lakes Crescent* and *Sorell* separated by only a few yards of ground, the *Arthur's Lake* and *Wood's Lake* at the head of the Lake River, and numerous smaller sheets of water. *Lake Tiberias*, at the head of the Jordan, is now almost completely overgrown with reeds and rushes, and bids fair in time to cease to be a lake. Among other lakes may be mentioned the *Hartz Lakes*, in the Hartz Mountains, also a tourist resort, and *Lake Pedder*, at the head of the Serpentine River.

LIST OF THE LAKES.

THE GREAT LAKE.
LAKE ARTHUR.
,, WOODS.
,, CRESCENT.
,, SORELL.
,, ECHO.
,, ST. CLAIR.
,, PEDDER.
,, TIBERIAS.
THE HARTZ LAKES.

FLORA.

TASMANIA has well been called "The Garden of Australia." All fruits and flowers indigenous to temperate regions flourish remarkably. All the year round gardens may be seen full of flowers, for winter is not sufficiently severe to prevent the hardier annuals and perennials flowering through it, nor is the summer hot enough to interfere with the blooms of the more tender plants if they are sufficiently watered. In the spring the bush is full of wild flowers, among them many species of ground orchids and other handsome plants, while the blooms of the wattle tree are distinguished by their beauty and fragrance.

From a commercial point of view the timber trees are the most important of our indigenous flora. Chief of these is the *Blue Gum* (Eucalyptus Globulus), found chiefly in the southern parts of Tasmania, and other species of gum, viz., the *Peppermint Gum* or *Swamp Gum* (Eucalyptus Amygdalina), *Stringybark* (E. Obliqua), *Red Gum* (E. Stuartiana), etc. The *Blackwood* (Acacia Melanoxylon), furnishes a dark reddish wood with a beautiful wavy grain, much used for furniture. The *Huon Pine* (Dachydium), is the most useful and serviceable of all Tasmanian soft woods. It is said to be almost indestructible in any situation, and is much used for furniture, ornamental work and the lighter sea craft. It was originally found in the basin of the Huon River, whence its name, but is now obtained from the West Coast, chiefly on the Gordon River. There are various other kinds of pine which, however, are restricted in their occurrence, for instance, the *Oyster Bay Pine*, found only on the East Coast, between Spring Bay and Bichen. The Gum Juniper of commerce may be obtained from this tree. The *Celery Top Pine*, which is peculiar to Tasmania, also gives very good timber. Among other ornamental woods may be mentioned the *She-oak* and *He-oak* (Casuarina Quadrivalvis and Suberosa) and the *Myrtle* (Fagus Cunninghamii).

The *Black Wattle* and the *Silver Wattle* (Acacia mollissenia and dealbata) yield a bark which is highly esteemed for tanning purposes, that of the Black Wattle being considered the better. This bark is largely exported.

FAUNA.

The animals found in Tasmania are of the usual Australian type; that is to say, the majority of them (27 out of 46) are marsupials or pouched animals, and many of these are peculiar to the island. The *Forester Kangaroo*, largest of existing marsupials, has almost disappeared, but the *Brush Kangaroo* and *Wallaby* are common in the thinly settled districts. That peculiar form of life, half mammal, half bird, the *Duck-billed Platypus*, used to be common throughout the island, but is not so common now, as it has been much shot for the sake of its skin, and the same fate has befallen the *Black* and *Grey Opossum*. The number of both these species has been largely reduced in the last few years from the way in which they have been hunted, opossum-skin rugs being highly prized. Another interesting animal is the *Wombat*, sometimes locally, though improperly called the Badger. Ugly though the animal is, it is said to be very good eating, and to resemble sucking-pig in taste. But most interesting of all are the two large species of marsupials peculiar to the island, *The Tasmanian Tiger* and *The Tasmanian Devil*. The tiger is so called because it has a skin striped somewhat like that of the Bengal Tiger, though it is in no way racially allied to it, as it belongs to a totally different order of animals. The Tasmanian Tiger is also called the Tasmanian Wolf, and it has an extraordinary wolf-like appearance, though, as stated above, it belongs to the order of marsupials. It has been nearly exterminated from the more populated regions of the island on account of the damage it inflicts on the flocks. Owing to its nocturnal habits it is but rarely seen, especially as it is now found only in the wildest parts of the country. In some books on natural history this animal is known as the Thylacine, from its scientific name, Thylacinus cynocephalus. *The Tasmanian*

Devil, so called from its ugly appearance, is another marsupial peculiar to Tasmania. It is a comparatively small animal with an excessively large head, but very powerful. It is carnivorous, and living creatures of all kinds —whether vertebrate or invertebrate—are liable to be attacked by it, except those that are altogether too large. Sheep are often destroyed in large numbers by these comparatively small animals. Mention should also be made of the so-called *Porcupine* (Echidna setosa), which is also peculiar to Tasmania, though other Echidnas are found in Australia and New Guinea. It is not a porcupine at all, but is allied to the Platypus, which it resembles in that it lays eggs, a peculiarity among mammals that is restricted to these two genera.

It may be noted that *Deer* have been imported and are found wild in the midlands, where they are hunted with a pack of hounds, and also on Tasman's Peninsula, where they are sometimes shot. *Rabbits*, another importation, swarm in certain parts of the island, while *Hares* are not uncommon.

Whales, *Seals* and *Porpoises* are found round the coast. Whaling was at one time one of the principal industries of the island, but has now completely died out, partly owing to the greater scarcity of the animals, but chiefly to the fall in price of the oil, owing to the introduction of the cheaper mineral oils.

Of birds two or three deserve mention. *The Cape Barren Goose*, found in the district that its name indicates, is peculiar to Tasmania and New Zealand. It is a handsome bird and is now protected by law. The *Mutton Bird* or Sooty Petrel abounds round the coast and breeds in the Furneaux Islands; it is the principal support of the half-castes who live on those islands. Millions of these birds make their nests in open burrows on slopes facing the sea, and the islanders, at the proper season, collect the young when they are nearly fledged. These young birds yield a large quantity of oil, which is valuable for its anti-friction qualities, and is used on the railways for lubricating the axle-boxes of carriages and waggons. The flesh of the birds is then pickled, and not only forms an important article of food for the islanders, but is also largely exported.

Of game birds the most important are the *Quail*, *Wild Duck*, *Black Swan* and *Wattle Bird*. Of others, there are several species of *Hawks*, *Cockatoos* and *Parrots*, *Honeyeaters*, *Petrels* (from the giant *Albatross* to the minute *Stormy Petrel*), *Penguins* and others. Specially noticeable are the *Giant Penguins*, found in vast quantities on the Macquarie Islands.

There are three species of Snakes—The *Tiger*, the *Copper Head* and the *Whip Snake*—all poisonous. There are numerous Lizards, all small and harmless.

Fish abound round the coast of Tasmania, and of these the Hobart *Trumpeter* is the finest from an edible point of view. It is very limited in its distribution, being confined to certain reefs or banks fringing the southern coasts of Tasmania at a depth of from 10 to 70 fathoms. Fry of the English *Trout* and *Salmon* have been distributed in many of the rivers; the former is now common in nearly all our rivers and streams. It is questionable if any examples of the true salmon are to be caught, the sea-going fish sometimes called a salmon is really a sea-going trout. The Fry are bred at the Salmon Ponds situated on the Plenty. Another fresh-water fish is the *Blackfish*, found chiefly in the northern rivers, and a very good fish it is to eat.

MINERALS.

TASMANIA is famous for its minerals, for the mineral industry is one of the most important sources of its wealth. A great deal of the country is still unexplored, as the steep hills and deep valleys and ravines, of the west coast, covered as they are with dense forest, make the prospector's task an arduous one. The difficulties of carriage and transport, too, render it unprofitable to work many deposits that have already been discovered. There is no doubt that as time goes on, and the country is opened up, this industry will increase steadily and become more productive. The most important of the minerals at present worked are gold, silver, copper and tin. A certain quantity of coal is raised and small quantities of iron, zinc, asbestos and other ores have been exported.

Gold.

Gold is obtained in two ways: either by working and washing alluvial deposits, or by crushing quartz or other gold-bearing reefs. Until recent years the former was the method usually adopted; in fact, one authority says that fifty years ago there was scarcely a gold mine profitably worked in the solid rock, although we now know that reef gold mining was known to the ancients and practised by them. Alluvial gold was first found in Tasmania in 1852, near Fingal; and from that date to this about a quarter of the gold obtained in the island has been of that character. The largest nugget found was discovered in the Rocky River and weighed 243 ozs. But at the present day very little gold is obtained in this way, only a small quantity at Beaconsfield and a still smaller quantity at Lisle. It must be remembered that the gold so found has been derived primarily from the decomposition and waste of the gold-bearing reefs and veins usually of quartz which occur in the rocks of old geological formation.

These gold-bearing reefs are met with in numerous places in the island, though in many the gold does not form a sufficiently large percentage of the rock to pay for working. The most important mining field is *Beaconsfield*, on the west side of the mouth of the Tamar, where there are several mines at work and where over 600 men are employed. From the Tasmania mine gold to the value of over two millions of money has been obtained and nearly £800,000 paid in dividends. Next in importance comes *Mathinna*, where one mine alone, the New Golden Gate, has, since it started, raised over £700,000 worth of gold and paid over £300,000 in dividends. This is one of the deepest mines in Tasmania; the shaft has been sunk over 1600 feet from the surface. *Mangana*, near Fingal, and *Lefroy*, on the east side of the mouth of the Tamar, come next in importance though a long way behind the other two, and there are other smaller and less important fields.

More gold is obtained from the *West Coast* than from any other part of the island; but there it is commonly found in connection with other metals. for instance, *Mount Lyall*, which is primarily a copper mine, yields comparatively large quantities of gold and silver.

Silver.

Silver is found in many places on the West Coast and also elsewhere in the island. In fact, argentiferous ores have been found all over the island, but it is only on the West Coast that such ores are rich enough to pay for working. There has been a great fall in the price of silver during the last twenty years. In 1882 it was worth 4s. 4d. an ounce; in 1892 only 2s. 3d.; and it has since gone below 2s. This has meant that only the richest mines have been able to keep on working. The silver ore raised in Tasmania is nearly all in the form of galena, that is silver combined with lead; though in the Mount Lyall mine it occurs combined with gold and copper. The chief fields are *Zeehan, Dundas, Mount Lyall* and *Waratah.* Should any cause make the price of silver rise, the silver mines will assume a far greater importance than they have now, and tend to become one of the most important mining industries of the island.

Copper.

Most important at the present time of the mines in Tasmania, both from the value of the output and from the number of men employed, are the copper mines, and yet, though this mineral is found in association with lead and tin in various places throughout the State, it is only on the West Coast it is found in payable quantity. The most important of these mines are those at *Mount Lyall* to which reference has already been made. At the Mount Lyall mine itself nearly two thousand men are employed, and at the North Mount Lyall over 700, with smaller numbers on other mines on the same field. The copper occurs in this district, as has already been mentioned, in connection with silver and gold. The large mine was fortunate in striking a particularly rich vein of ore in its early days, which enabled it to construct a railway and build smelters, and now it is able to treat the immense mass of low grade ore which it possesses so as to leave a reasonable margin of profit. Copper is also being worked at *Roseberry* and *King River.*

Tin.

Best known of all the minerals obtained from Tasmania is tin, and rightly so, as the tin deposits have been its greatest source of wealth, and the value of tin raised in the past has nearly equalled that of all the other minerals put together. *Mount Bischoff*, too, the mountain of tin, has a world-wide reputation. In fact, Tasmania is the third largest producer of this metal in the world, being only exceeded by the Strait Settlements and Great Britain.

Tin occurs in three forms: (1) Alluvial deposits; (2) lodes and veins; (3) impregnations or stockworks. Alluvial deposits are found along the valleys of the Ringarooma and George's Rivers and their branches, and have been laid down by ancient rivers which correspond approximately to those at present in existence. Montgomery writes of the Ringarooma: "There was an older Ringarooma which lies lower than the existing stream but follows much the same general course. This ancient river bed has been gradually filled with alluvial matter, and finally with flows of basalt, and the waters passing down the valley have since cut a new channel, partly through and partly alongside these older deposits."

The main townships on these fields are *Derby*, *Branxholm*, *Gladstone* and *Weldborough*, and some of the mines are near *St. Helens.* Alluvial tin is also found at places on the west coast, though it is only at *Heemskirk* that it is being worked. At *Mount Bischoff* tin occurs in all its three forms.

Lode or vein-mining has not been very successful in Tasmania. The alluial tin has probably come from the breaking down of veins, but lodes of workable size are not common. *Lottah and Blue Tier* is the most important field, and there is lode tin at Mount Bischoff, Mount Heemskirk and elsewhere.

The stockworks or impregnations of tin ore are strings of ore found through granite or quartz porphyry dykes. Very rich bunches of tin ore may occur, though its distribution is generally very irregular. The most important example of this is the Anchor Mine, at *Lottah*.

The Mount Bischoff Mine shows a curious combination of all the different kinds of tin deposits. On the surface there were large and heavy deposits of waterworn alluvial tin, lying close upon the parent deposits of lode tin, while the surrounding rock carries impregnated tin ore. From this mine, since its formation, over 60,000 tons of ore have been obtained, and dividends to the amount of over £1,800,000 have been paid.

Coal.

There is a quantity of coal throughout the island though most of it is not of a very high character. Excellent cannel coal has been found, but in places too inaccessible to pay for working. The most important mines are near *St. Mary's*, on the *Nicholas Range*, where two mines have been working for many years and new ones are now starting. On the D'Entrecasteaux Channel, *Mount Cygnet* is producing a considerable quantity of coal of a fair quality, and a new mine is in course of development at the *Sandfly*, and at *Spreyton*, in the Mersey basin, a coal mine is being worked. Coal, to a limited extent, is raised at *Colebrook* and *York Plains*.

There are extensive oil-shale deposits at *Latrobe*.

THE CHIEF MINING FIELDS.

Gold.

Alluvial.

BEACONSFIELD, LISLE.

Reef.

BEACONSFIELD, MATHINNA, MANGANA, LEFROY.

In Connection with other Metals.

MOUNT LYALL.

Silver. Lead

ZEEHAN, DUNDAS, MOUNT LYALL, WARATAH.

Copper.

MOUNT LYALL, ROSEBERRY.

Tin.

Alluvial.

VALLEYS OF THE RINGAROOMA
AND
GEORGE'S RIVERS
(DERBY, BRANXHOLM, GLADSTONE, WELDBOROUGH, ST. HELENS).
HEEMSKIRK, MOUNT BISCHOFF.

Lode.

LOTTAH, BLUE TIER, HEEMSKIRK, MOUNT BISCHOFF.

Impregnations.

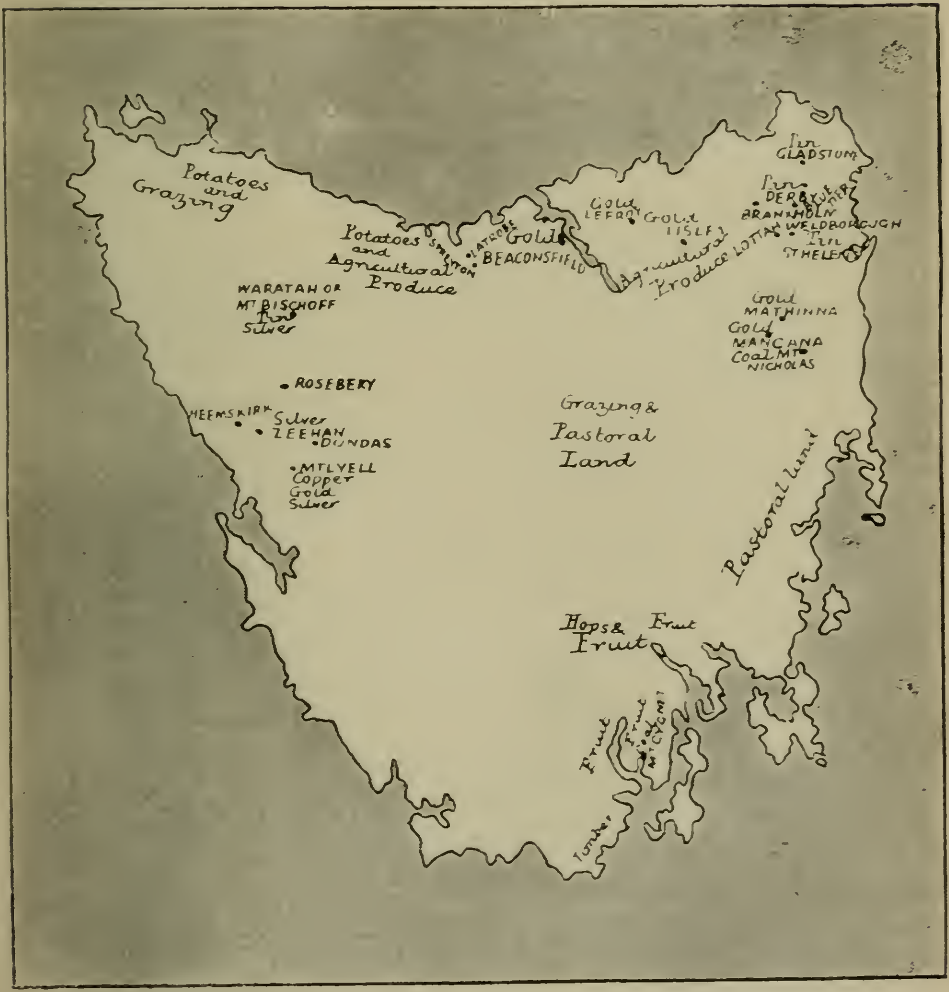
LOTTAH, MOUNT BISCHOFF.

Coal.

MOUNT NICHOLAS and CORNWALL, MOUNT CYGNET, SPREYTON.

Oil-Shale.

LATROBE.



AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS.

Most important of the agricultural industries of Tasmania is the growing of fruit; next comes that of potatoes; then cereal crops and hay, followed, but at a long interval, by root crops for local consumption and hops.

Fruit is grown principally around Hobart, in the valleys of the Derwent and the Jordan, and southward from Hobart down to the Huon and the shores of the D'Entrecasteaux Channel. The chief fruit is *Apples*, which are sent away to England and the neighbouring States, chiefly New South Wales. Pears, as well as Apricots, Plums, Cherries and other stone fruit, are grown for local consumption and for export to the neighbouring States, and small fruit, such as Raspberries, Currants and Gooseberries, for local consumption and for the jam factories in the south.

Potatoes are grown principally on the north-west coast, whence they are exported to Victoria, New South Wales and other States, and in a favourable season prove a very remunerative crop.

Of cereals *Oats* are produced in sufficient quantity to form an important item in our exports; the *Wheat* is approximately equal to the home consumption, and in favourable seasons a small quantity of *Hay* is available for markets outside the colonies.

Hops are grown in the districts of Westbury, Hamilton (Glenora), New Norfolk and Glenorchy, and are used by the local brewers, and also exported to the other Australian States. Besides those mentioned, other cereals, root crops and forage plants are grown in sufficient quantities for local consumption.

The value of the fruit exported in 1901 was nearly £250,000; that of potatoes, over £180,000; jam, £77,000; hops, £24,000. This is, of course, over and above the amount consumed in the colony itself.

Sheep, Cattle, Horses and Pigs are bred in the State. The produce of the *Wool* is one of the staple industries, and Tasmania's *Stud Sheep* are famous throughout the Australian States. Buyers from all the neighbouring

States come to the yearly sale of pure bred merinos, which they purchase, often at very high prices, for the improvement of their own flocks; and the highest places in the shows in New South Wales and Victoria, and the highest prices, are usually obtained by Tasmanian-bred sheep. *Cattle* are bred in almost sufficient quantity for home consumption, and an appreciable amount of *hides and leather* is exported.

Butter, *Cheese and Lard* are produced, but not enough for the needs of the colony, as considerable quantities of these commodities have to be imported every year.

It is said that merino sheep succeed best in the Midlands, that on the north-west coast Lincolns and Southdowns do best, while the south is especially favourable for Shropshires.

OTHER INDUSTRIES.

The manufactures of Tasmania are still in their infancy, though they are steadily increasing in some directions since Federation opened up colonial markets. Among the most important are the *Jam* Factories of the south, which are doing a large and important business. The *Breweries* throughout the island make beer principally for local consumption, but much is exported, and there are also *Woollen Mills*, *Tanneries*, *Boot Manufactories* and other smaller industries. But probably the most important are the *Saw Mills* that are scattered throughout the south of the island, from Geeveston to Southport. Over 1000 men are employed in this industry, and timber is exported to the neighbouring States, the United Kingdom and South Africa. A special agent was sent from the Dover Harbour Works to obtain piles for that great undertaking, and enormous piles, one hundred feet in length, of Blue Gum, were shipped. This is one of the growing industries of the island.

More will probably be made of the fisheries in the future, as the jam manufactories have added the tinning of fish to their other work.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

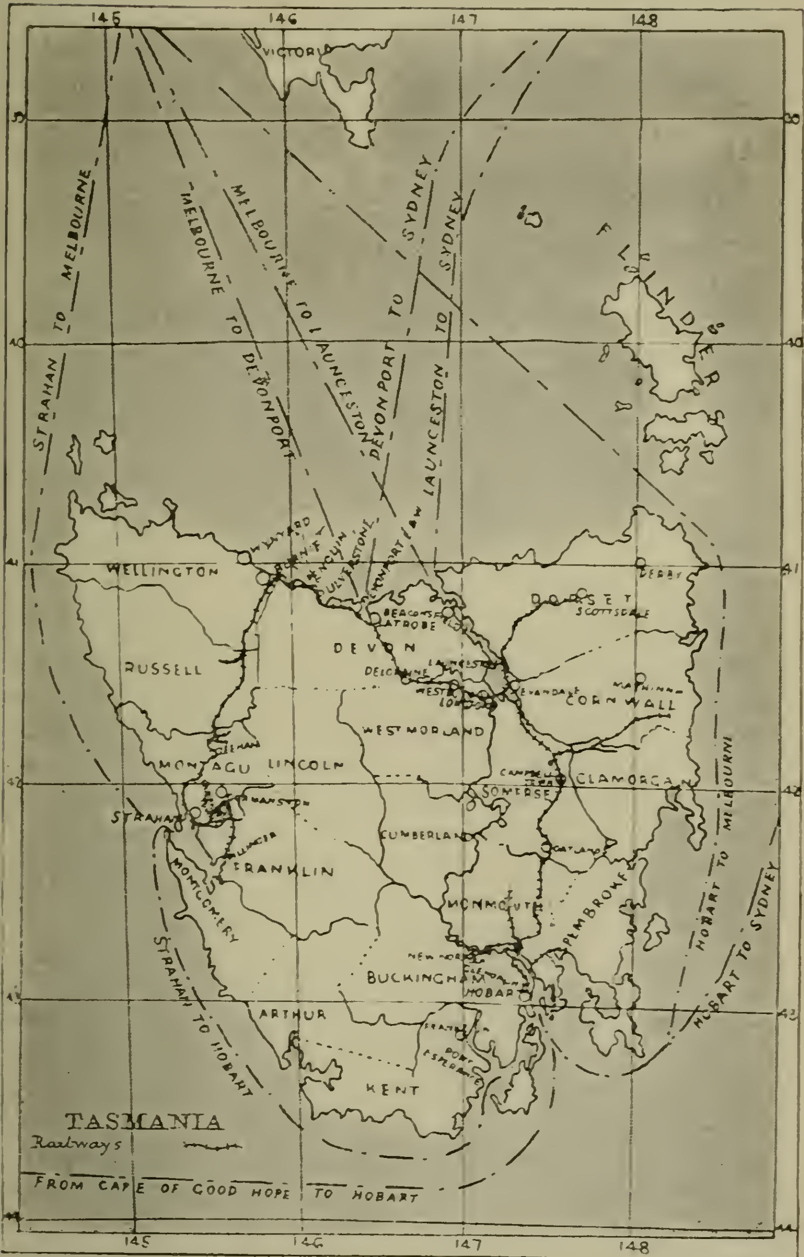
The imports of Tasmania are naturally those articles that are not produced locally or not produced in sufficient quantity for the needs of the State. Taking articles of food first, we find that the most important are the products of tropical or sub-tropical countries, such as *Sugar, Tea and Tobacco.* As enough is not made in the State, a considerable amount of *Butter, Cheese and Lard* is brought in. Other imports are *Wines* and *Spirits* from Europe and also from the Australian wine-producing countries. The largest items, however, come under the heading *Textile Fabrics*, including clothing of all kinds, bags and bagging for packing corn and wool. *Machinery* comes next in importance, followed by *Manufactured Articles*, such as glass, earthenware and furniture. A certain quantity of *Coal* is brought in, as so far what has been found in the State is not of a quality to suit all purposes.

The most important of the exports are the *Minerals* already mentioned—Copper, Gold, Silver and Tin. Next comes *Agricultural Produce*; *Potatoes* and *Fruit* at the present time (1905) head the list, with *Oats*, *Hops* and *Hay* following. *Jam* and *Preserved Fruits* are the most important of manufactured articles. The pastoralists export large quantities of *Wool*, besides *Hides* and *Skins*, nor must *Stud Sheep* be forgotten. Of vegetable substances, the chief exports are *Timber* and *Bark*.

The total value of the imports for 1904 was two and a half million pounds (£2,554,454), and of the exports just under three millions (£2,989,600).

TRADE ROUTES.

The chief trade routes, as far as the produce of the island is concerned, are from the northern ports, Devonport and Launceston, to Melbourne and Sydney, and from Hobart to the same places, for it is to these large cities, and from them on to Adelaide and Western Australia on the one side, and to Queensland on the other, that most of the agricultural produce is sent. But dur-


145
146
147
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VICTORIA
39
40
41
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43
44
STRAHAN TO MELBOURNE
MELBOURNE TO DEVONPORT
MELBOURNE TO LAUNCESTON
DEVONPORT TO SYDNEY
LAUNCESTON TO SYDNEY
FLINDERS
WYNYARD
BURNIE
PENGUIN
ULVERSTONE
DEVONPORT
BEACONSFIELD
LATROBE
DERBY
DORSET
SCOTTSDALE
WELLINGTON
RUSSELL
DEVON
DELORAINE
LAUNCESTON
WESTBURY
LONGFORD
EVANDALE
MATHINNA
CORNWALL
WESTMORLAND
ZEEHAN
MONTAGU
LINCOLN
CAMPBELL TOWN
GLAMORGAN
SOMERSET
STRAHAN
GORMANSTON
QUEENSTOWN
LINDA
CUMBERLAND
FRANKLIN
OATLANDS
MONTGOMERY
MONMOUTH
PEMBROKE
NEW NORFOLK
BUCKINGHAM
HOBART
ARTHUR
BRIGHTON
PORT ESPERANCE
KENT
STRAHAN TO HOBART
HOBART TO MELBOURNE
HOBART TO SYDNEY
TASMANIA
Railways
FROM CAPE OF GOOD HOPE TO HOBART

ing the fruit season the great liners running on the main trade route from Australia to England, come from Sydney to Hobart and thence on to Melbourne, taking their loads of apples for the English market. During the rest of the year these steamers do not call at Hobart and go direct from Sydney to Melbourne and thence to Europe. The vessels on the trade route from the Cape of Good Hope to New Zealand make Hobart a port of call, as do the vessels from Melbourne to the south of New Zealand. There is also a regular line of steamers running from Strahan to Melbourne direct, and there is also the local trade around the coast, that between Hobart and Strahan being the most important. The large steamers of the White Star line are now making Hobart the last port of call, owing to the great depth of water at that port enabling them to load fully there, which they are unable to do at the mainland ports.

CLIMATE.

TASMANIA possesses a very equable climate, as far as temperature is concerned. Surrounded as it is on three sides by the ocean, and separated from the mainland by a broad strait, there is not much difference between the mean summer and winter heat; while the hot winds that are such a marked and unpleasant feature of the neighbouring mainland are only occasionally felt, and then only for a few hours. Hobart and towns on the north and east coasts are favourite resorts for invalids, enervated by the heat of Australia. During the winter months snow often covers the higher peaks and lies on the higher table-lands; and the higher lakes, such as the Great Lake, are often covered with ice, but at lower altitudes snow rarely falls and never lies, and frosts, though occasionally severe at night, do not last through the day.

There is, however, a great deal of difference between the west coast and the rest of the island in the matter of rainfall. The prevailing rain-bearing wind is from the west and south-west, and the clouds striking the mountains that rise along the west coast lose much of their moisture.

The average rainfall at Mount Lyall is over 110 inches a year; at Zeehan, about 90; at Waratah, 80; and throughout this district rain falls on an average two days out of three throughout the year. In the rest of the island the rainfall is much less, averaging between 20 and 30 inches (though in some places that are exceptionally dry, it may be less than this, and again in others, along the sea coast, it may go as high as 40), and the number of rainy days throughout the year is not one in three.

The average rainfall of Hobart is 23 inches, and the mean temperature 55 degs.; the warmest month is January, with a mean temperature of 63 degs.; the coldest, July, with 46 degs.

PRINCIPAL TOWNS.

Southern Division.

HOBART, the Capital, is beautifully situated on the estuary of the Derwent, below Mount Wellington. It has a magnificent harbour and the largest ocean-going steamers can come right alongside the wharves. It is the chief port for the fruit trade, also for the wool that is sent away from the island. It has many fine public buildings, and a good museum. There are in it the chief manufactories of the island—Jam, Preserved Fruit, Canned Fish and Woollen Goods. Its population is a little under 25,000, or, including its suburbs, 32,400.

Twenty-two miles from Hobart, up the Derwent, lies *New Norfolk*, a beautiful little town with over 1,100 inhabitants. It is the centre of a fruit and hop-growing district, and is a favourite tourist resort. The Lunatic Asylum is located here.

Just out of Hobart lies *Glenorchy*, which is surrounded by orchards and hop grounds.

South of Hobart the fruit-growing district extends down to the Huon, and the chief centre is *Franklin*, on the Huon. Further south still we come to the timber district; the principal mills are situated at *Geeveston* and on the shores of *Port Esperance* and the neighbouring bays.

On the eastern side of the Derwent is a pastoral and agricultural district, the chief centres of which are *Richmond* and *Sorell*. Further south in Tasman's Peninsula lies *Port Arthur* or *Carnarvon*, now but a small township, but much visited by tourists, because of its connection with the history of the convicts on the island.

Middle Division.

Here there is a long stretch of a pastoral and agricultural district with numerous townships of more or less importance. The chief of these are *Bothwell*, *Oatlands* and *Campbell Town*. From the midlands runs out to the east the Fingal Valley, where, in addition to farming, coal and other mines are worked. The chief centres are *Fingal* and *Mathinna*, connected with gold-mining, and *St. Mary's*, near which the Cornwall and Mount Nicholas coal mines are situated. The townships along the east coast are small, the most important of them being *St. Helens*, which is the outlet for the tin mines on the Blue Tier and the neighbourhood.

Northern Division.

LAUNCESTON is the second city of the island and the chief port of the north. It is situated at the head of the Tamar (which is really an estuary of the sea, forty miles long), where the North and the South Esk join. The produce of the mining fields to the east of it are shipped from it, and there is a considerable trade in agricultural produce with Melbourne and Sydney. The only manufactures are some pottery works. To the east of it lie *Scotsdale*, the terminus of a branch railway, and *Derby*, a mining town, and north of it *Beaconsfield*, another mining town. Away to the west, through the rich agricultural district, lie several townships, for this is the most fertile stretch of land in the island. Taking them in order of position the most important are *Evandale*, *Longford*.

LAUNCESTON.

Westbury, *Deloraine*, and, along the coast, *Latrobe*, *Devonport*, *Ulverstone*, *The Penguin*, *Burnie* (Emu Bay), *Wynyard*, *Stanley* (Circular Head). Of these *Devonport* is the most important, as it has a good harbour, and steamers of large size can go alongside of the wharf. Agricultural produce is the chief export, far the largest item being potatoes. *Ulverstone* has a considerable amount of trade, but it has a poor harbour. At *Burnie* there is a fine breakwater alongside of which steamers can berth, and this township is the terminus of the railway from the west coast and Mount Bischoff, and also of the western branch of the State railway. Large amounts of minerals are shipped from it, in addition to great quantities of agricultural produce grown on the rich chocolate soil from which the wealth of this district springs. All these towns on the coast are favourite tourist resorts.

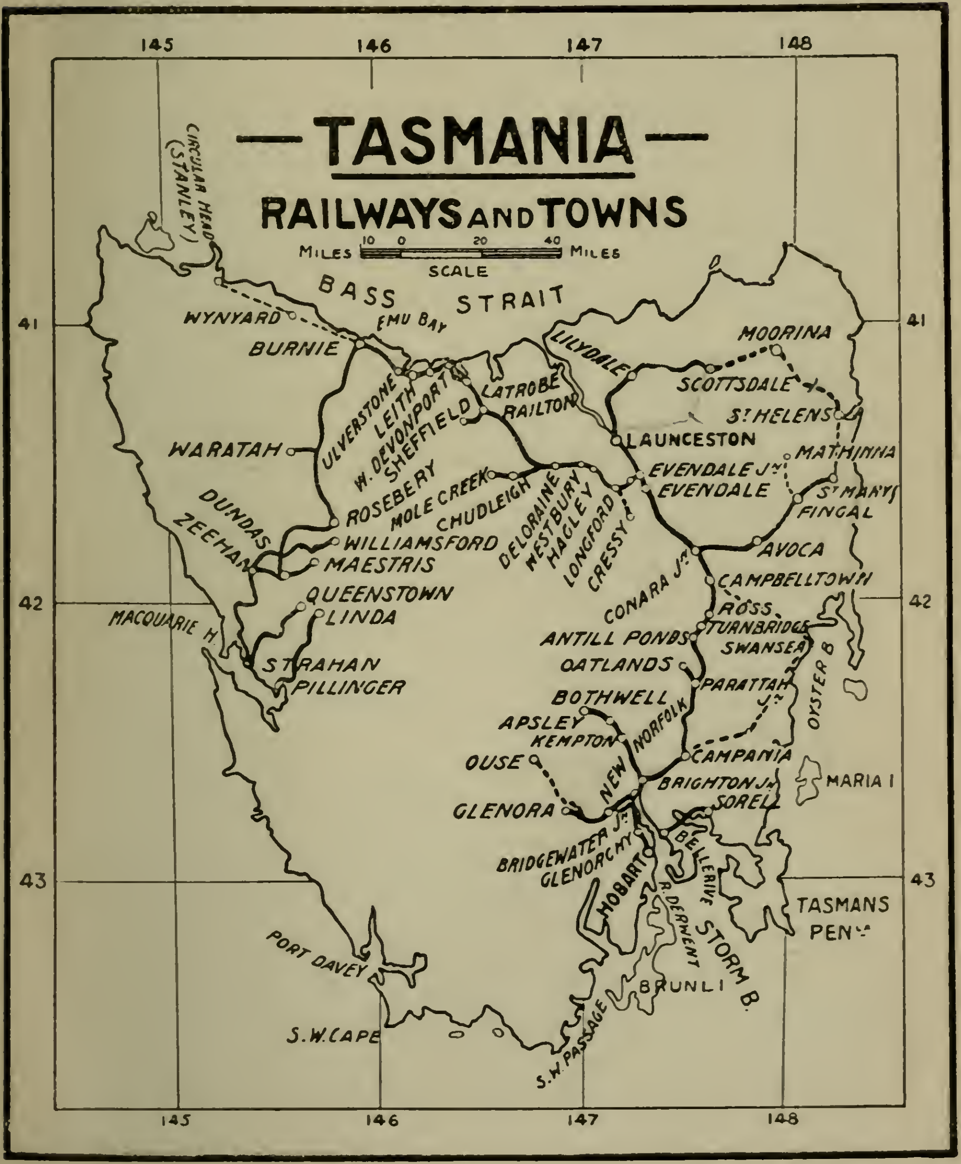
Western Division.

The towns on the west coast are all connected with mining, and like many mining towns have grown up very rapidly. Where the largest of them now are, a few years ago stood almost impenetrable forest and scrub. *Zeehan* was the largest till lately, owing to the silver mines in the neighbourhood, but the great fall in the price of silver has rendered many of these mines unremunerative. *Queenstown*, where the famous Mount Lyall mine is situated, is now the largest town, and the third largest in the island, while the same group of mines is responsible for the recent growth of another township in the immediate neighbourhood, called after a late Governor, *Gormanston*. The seaport from which most of the products of the mines are shipped is *Strahan*, which is also the terminus of the west coast railway, and *Pillinger*, formerly known as *Kelly's Basin*, is the terminus of the line from Mount Lyall, and is rapidly coming into importance as a mining port. Both these towns are situated in Macquarie Harbour. Mention must also be made of *Waratah*, where the great tin mine, the Mount Bischoff, is situated.

LIST OF IMPORTANT TOWNS.

With Population and Pursuits Connected with them.
(From Census Returns of 1901.)

Hobart.—24,654 ; including suburbs, 32,418. The



Capital, Houses of Parliament, Government Offices, Chief Port, especially for Fruit and Wool, Manufactures of Jam, Canned Fish and Woollen Goods.

Launceston.—18,022; including Suburbs, 19,826. Chief Seaport of the North.

Queenstown.—5,051. Mining.

Zeehan.—5,014. Mining.

Devonport, East and West.—2,774. Seaport, Watering Place, Centre of Farming District.

Beaconsfield.—2,658. Mining.

Gormanston.—1,760. Mining.

Burnie.—1,548. Mining Seaport, Agricultural Farming.

Strahan.—1,504. Mining Seaport.

Latrobe.—1,360. Agricultural Farming.

Longford.—1,223. Agricultural and Pastoral Farming.

Ulverstone.—1,164. Agricultural Farming.

New Norfolk.—1,157. Fruit and Hop Growing.

Westbury.—1,027. Agricultural Farming.

OTHER LESS IMPORTANT TOWNS

(Less than 1,000 Inhabitants, but over 500).

Agricultural and Pastoral Farming.—*Deloraine, Campbell Town, Scotsdale, Oatlands, Evandale, Wynyard, Penguin.*

Fruit Growing.—*Franklin, Glenorchy.*

Mining.—*Mathinna, Derby.*

Mining Seaport.—*Pillinger.*

Timber.—*Port Esperance.*

THE COUNTIES.

When Tasmania was first settled it was divided (in 1804) into two separate Governments—one in the south and one in the north, the dividing line being the 42 parallel of south latitude. To these districts the name of counties was given, the southern being called Buckingham and the northern Cornwall. Subsequently the whole island was divided into counties, the names already given being restricted to the districts about Hobart and Launceston respectively. The divisions at the present time have no practical value except for the purposes of land settlement, and their names and position may be best learnt from the map in which they are marked. The electoral districts, at first corresponding to these counties, and still keeping some of the names, have been greatly changed of late years.

THE RAILWAYS.

The railways of Tasmania consist of a main line that runs from Hobart to Launceston, with branch lines, worked by the Government. Of the branch lines, the one that runs from Launceston to Deloraine was constructed before the main line was contemplated, both being the work of private companies. They were afterwards taken over by the Government, and the branch to Deloraine extended to Burnie. Other branch lines run from Bridgewater to Glenora, from Launceston to Scotsdale, from Bellerive to Sorell, from Brighton to Apsley, from Conara Junction to St. Mary's, and a short one from Paratah to Oatlands. Another Government line runs from Strahan to Zeehan, where it connects with a privately-owned line that runs from Zeehan to Burnie. Mount Lyell also possesses private lines that run from Linda (North Lyell) to Pillinger (Kelly Basin), and from Queenstown to Strahan. There is a short private railway from Maestris to Zeehan.

GOVERNMENT.

The Government of the island. as in most of the self-governing colonies, consists of a Governor appointed by the English authorities who is the representative of the Crown, and two elected Houses. The Upper, called the Legislative Council, consists of 18 members; the Lower, called the House of Assembly, has 36. But Tasmania is also part of the Australian Confederation which manages the Customs, the Post and Telegraph Offices and the Defence Department. This confederation has given Freetrade through all the Australian States. Tasmania sends six members to the Senate, the same number as each of the other States, for in this, the Upper House all the States are equally represented. In the Lower House or House of Representatives, the States are represented in proportion to their population so that Tasmania sends five out of a total of seventy-five.

Short History.

In 1642, Van Diemen, the Governor-General of the Dutch Settlement in Batavia, sent Abel Tasman in charge of an expedition to explore the "Great South Land," as Australia was then called. The northern part had been discovered by Dutch explorers and Tasman was to see how far south it extended. So he sailed to Mauritius first, and then south and east, till he reached the parallel of 44 degs. south latitude, along which he sailed, and at last sighted the shores of Tasmania at the place now called Point Hibbs. He saw high land and mountains behind, two of the peaks of which in later days have been called after his two ships, the "Heemskirk" and the "Zeehan"; and he named the land after the Governor who had sent him out. Sailing round the south of the island he landed in Marion Bay and then continued his voyage up the East Coast, naming some of the places he saw with the names they still bear, such as Maria Island and Schouten Island. He lost sight of the land about St. Patrick's Head and sailed east to make further discoveries.

One hundred and thirty years later, in 1772, a French navigator, Marion du Fresne, spent a week in Marion Bay. He had some intercourse with the natives who, at first, showed themselves friendly, but eventually a disturbance occurred and some of the aborigines were shot.

The next year Captain Furneaux visited the island and entered what is now called Adventure Bay, after his ship the *Adventure*. It is interesting to read that he thought it was the bay that Tasman had visited, a mistake that arose from a difference in the chronometer readings made by Tasman and himself, owing to the improvements made in that instrument since the time of the earlier explorer.

Captain Cook, on his third (and last) voyage, touched at Adventure Bay in 1777, and two years later Lieutenant Bligh, in the "Bounty," spent twelve days at the same place, which he visited again in 1792 and where he planted several trees.

Later in the same year, and also in the following year (1793), Rear Admiral Bruny D'Entrecasteaux, in his ship, the "Recherche," with Captain Huon Kermadec in the "Esperance," visited the south of the island and made a very complete survey of the part that bears his name. The memory of their important investigations is still kept alive by the places named by them. Next came Lieut. John Hughes on behalf of the East India Company searching for harbors. He gave the Derwent its name. It had been previously called by D'Entrecasteaux the North River (Riviere du Nord).

A few years later Dr. Bass discovered the strait between Tasmania and the main land, and in 1798 Lieutenant Flinders, with Dr. Bass, sailed right round the island.

A French expedition visited Tasmania and surveyed the South, East and North Coasts in 1802, and a fear arose that they were intending to make settlements on the shores of Bass Strait. So Governor King, of New South Wales, made representations to the home government, which were favourably received, and an expedition, under Lieutenant-Governor David Collins, was fitted out to found a settlement at Port Phillip. In the meantime Governor King sent a small party, under Lieutenant Bowen, to the Derwent, which landed in the neighbourhood of Risdon, on September 7, 1803. The expedition to Port Phillip could not find a suitable place for a settlement and reported that the natives were hostile, water scarce, soil barren, and snakes and insects innumerable, so by Governor King's direction it came on to the Derwent, which it reached in 1804. Governor Collins was not satisfied with the site of the Risdon settlement, and moved his headquarters to the place where Hobart now stands. He called the settlement Hobart Town, a name which it kept till 1881, when the additional word "Town" was dropped.

A few months later Governor King sent another expedition under Lieutenant-Colonel Paterson to Port Dalrymple, at the mouth of the River Tamar. It met with very tempestuous weather between Sydney and Tasmania, and, in fact, had to return to Sydney once. But at length Governor Paterson reached the northern shores of the island and pitched his headquarters at York Town. It was found, however, that this was a most unsuitable place for a settlement, and, after considerable exploring, Paterson fixed on the site of the present town of Launceston, and moved there in 1806. All the north of the Island, north of the 42 parallel of latitude, was called the County of Cornwall and put under the Governor of Launceston, all south was called the County of Buckingham and was under the Governor of Hobart. In 1812 the two settlements in the north and the south of the island were united under one Government. In 1825 Van Diemen's Land, as it was then called, which had been subordinate to the New South Wales Government, was made a separate and independent colony, and two councils were appointed—one the Executive, consisting of four members, the chief government officials in the colony, whose duty was to advise the Governor in connection with acts of administration ; and the other, the Legislative of seven members, chosen by the Governor, to frame the laws. Colonel Arthur was the Governor when this change was made.

The natives became very troublesome about this time, and an attempt was made to force them all into Tasman's Peninsula by a movement called the Black Line, but it was an utter failure, the only capture being one man and a boy. But a few years later, what force could not do, kindness accomplished. George Augustus Robinson went among the natives and persuaded them to come in. All that were left of them, only about 200 in number, were removed to Flinders Island where a settlement had been prepared for them. (See article on Aborigines.)

During these early years of the colony there was great trouble from the bushrangers, who were mostly escaped convicts. Many places in the island are named after some of the most notorious of them, such as Brady's Lookout.

In 1834 the first settlement in Victoria was made by two Tasmanians, the brothers Henty, who established a whaling station at Portland Bay, and took over sheep and cattle with them. They may be regarded as the founders of the colony of Victoria. In the following year two parties from Launceston, led by Messrs. Batman and Faukner respectively, made settlements about the mouth of the Yarra, and they were followed by many more Tasmanians, so that "the honour of founding the colony of Victoria is due to Tasmanian enterprise." A brisk trade soon sprang up between the two colonies.

Colonel Arthur's Governorship terminated in 1836. During the twelve years that he had been in office the colony had made great strides; the population had increased from 13,000 to over 40,000; the value of exports had risen from £25,000 to £500,000; 29 schools had been established, and bushranging was now almost unknown. He was succeeded by the famous Arctic explorer, Sir John Franklin.

The Governorship of Sir John Franklin is noteworthy in two totally different directions, political and scientific. In the region of politics his lot was not altogether a happy one. The friction between the free colonists and the officials who represented the Home Government grew and increased. The latter wished to govern the island entirely as a penal settlement, and thought little of the interests of the free settlers; while these on their part began to see the disadvantages there were in the presence of the convicts, and to agitate for their removal. In the region of science, however, Sir John Franklin took a prominent and eminently successful part. He was the founder and first President of the Royal Society, and our Museum owes its origin to him. The *Erebus* and *Terror* visited Hobart in 1840 on an Antarctic expedition, and Dr. Hooker, the botanist on board, made an investigation of the flora of the island, which formed the basis of his magnificent work, *The Flora of Tasmania.* Darwin, who afterwards became so famous for his scientific observations and theories, visited Tasmania in the *Beagle*, and Jakes, a well-known geologist, studied the geological features of the island; while Dr. Richardson made a large collection of the fishes. So in various branches of science the island came under notice during this period.

Sir John Eardly-Wilmot succeeded Sir John Franklin in 1843, and remained in office till 1846. The friction between the officials and the colonists became still more intense, and under the next Governor, Sir William Dennison, resulted in the organisation of a League against transportation. This speedily bore fruit, assisted by the change introduced in the government of the colony. For in 1850 Legislative Councils were established in Tasmania, South Australia, and Victoria, one-third of the members to be nominated by the Crown and two-thirds elected by the people. Of the sixteen elected members in Tasmania nearly all were pledged to the League, and at one of the first meetings of the Council an address to the Queen was drawn up, respectfully remonstrating against criminals being transported to Tasmania. The address was received and listened to by the English Ministry, and in May, 1853, an official notice was published in the *Hobart Gazette* that transportation had ceased. The news was received with great rejoicings, and to mark the event, which occurred just fifty years after the founding of the colony, the name of the island was changed from Van Diemen's Land to Tasmania.

In 1851 gold was discovered in New South Wales, and then in Victoria. Shortly after discoveries of the precious metal were made in Tasmania and in New Zealand, but the richness of the Victorian fields eclipsed all the others. This had a very great effect on Tasmania, as it opened a market for all sorts of produce, and the value of the exports of this colony nearly trebled itself in two years.

In 1854 a Central Board of Education was appointed, and the number of members of the Legislative Council was increased from 24 to 33.

APPLE PICKING.

In 1855 Tasmania, first of all the colonies in Australasia, received the privilege of Representative Government. An Act was passed by the English Parliament authorising the election of two Chambers of Representatives, all the members of which were to be chosen by the votes of the people, the lower Chamber to be called the House of Assembly and the upper the Legislative Council. The first elected Parliament was opened on December 2nd, 1856.

From 1856 to the end of the century the history of Tasmania is a record of steady industrial progress. The country was opened up by roads, and then by railways. Great mineral deposits were discovered and worked. Towards the end of the century the fruit industry commenced, and is still growing. A University was established in 1890.

On the 1st of January, 1901, the Federation of the Australasian colonies took place, and the COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA came into being. Under its constitution there is one general Government for Tasmania and the States of the mainland, which controls the Customs, the Post and Telegraph services, and the Defence Force. It consists of a Governor-General appointed by the King, a Senate, to which each of the States sends six members, and a House of Representatives, to which each State sends members in proportion to its population. Tasmania sends five, while New South Wales sends twenty-six, and the other States numbers varying with the number of their people. One great change that has been introduced in connection with these elections is the conferring of the suffrage on women. All women have now a right to vote for the representatives of the States in the Federal House.

The Aborigines of Tasmania.

There is a peculiar scientific interest attached to the aborigines of Tasmania from their amount of development, or rather, from their want of it. Geologists classify the periods in the history of the world in which the first traces of man are found, as the Palæolithic and Neolithic (the old stone and the new stone) periods from the class of weapons found along with the traces of man's existence. Untold ages have elapsed since then, and yet the first explorers found in Australia savages in the neolithic stage of development, and in Tasmania those in the palæolithic stage.

Physical Characteristics.—There was some difference between the various tribes in the different parts of Tasmania, but, speaking generally, they had massive, heavy faces, with small, deep set eyes, large flat noses with wide, spreading nostrils, large mouths with thick lips, and black, curly hair. Their skin was black, their bodies fairly well proportioned, though often the abdomen was largely swollen, probably from the amount of indigestible food, such as fern roots, etc., that they consumed. The men wore their hair in small corkscrew ringlets of varying length, and these ringlets were loaded with red ochre and hung round and down about the face. The women cut their hair very close, or even shaved it off altogether. Most writers describe their appearance as repulsive, though Cook and others say their features were far from disagreeable. They were very keen sighted, and their women were magnificent swimmers. This arose from the fact that to the females was left the task of collecting shell-fish, which they did, by diving, and they could remain under water for a very long time.

Clothes and Ornaments.—Men and women went about absolutely naked, the only covering they ever wore was, in cold and wet weather, a kangaroo skin, or a cloak made of skins sewn together, thrown over the shoulders. Women sometimes wore a kangaroo skin over their shoulders, but this was to support their children when carried on their backs. They sometimes had strips of skin tied round the waist, or under the knee or round the wrist or ankle, but these were evidently for ornament. For other ornament they wore necklaces of kangaroo sinews, twisted and dyed with red ochre, their favourite colour, and they also made necklaces of shells. The shell chiefly used was the *Elenchus*, or mariner shell, the one which is now sold as a Tasmanian curiosity, and which, when the white outer layer is removed, has a brilliant blue or green colour. They covered their bodies with grease and red ochre, not only for ornament, but to enable them to resist the inclemency of the weather. An amusing story is told that a ship-master once made some soup for a party of these natives. They looked at it complacently, skimmed off all the fat that was floating on the top with their hands and smeared their hair with it, but they would not drink the soup. Sometimes they ornamented themselves with lines of red ochre drawn round the eyes, or in wavy lines down the body, especially on the arms and legs. They were very fond, too, of heightening their already dark colour by rubbing black ash or charcoal all over their bodies, and especially over their faces.

Another peculiar form of ornamentation that they adopted was that of scars. Incisions were made across the chest, upon the arms and thighs, as much as an inch or more in depth. These were kept open by being filled with grease or wood ashes, causing the flesh to stand up in ridges above the general surface of the skin. Even the women allowed themselves to be so scarified, and the men seem to have taken pride in submitting to the operation, which was performed in early manhood, and may have been considered the mark of the boyhood stage being left.

Implements.—There is a special interest in the weapons and tools used by any savage race, for by them, its position in the scale of civilisation may be reckoned. Judged by them, the Tasmanian aborigines must be placed in the very lowest stage, for their weapons of war were simply wooden spears and waddys, their tools pieces of flint, which they held in their hands. Their *spears* were straight pieces of tea-tree or other hard wood, from six to ten feet in length, pointed at the thicker end and hardened in the fire. They had a treacherous habit in connection with these spears. They would throw them down and advance with hands uplifted or resting upon the top of the head as if unarmed; but all the while they were dragging spears along the ground held between the toes, and when they had reached striking distance the spear was grasped and hurled before the unsuspecting victim had time to defend himself. The *waddy* was a short piece of wood, two feet to two and a half feet in length, tapering from about an inch and three-quarters in diameter to about an inch and a quarter, slightly roughened at the thinner end to give a better grasp. It was used either as a club or thrown. They supplemented these weapons by the use of ordinary stones as missiles.

Flints served them as knives and hatchets. These flints are not composed of true flint, of which there is none in Tasmania, but are of chert, or a cherty variety of metamorphosed sedimentary rocks. When a piece of such rock is broken, fragments with a naturally sharp edge may be found, but the natives also took pieces of a suitable size and shape and improved the edge by striking off small flakes all along one side of the edge. This was done with another piece of stone. They never attempted to sharpen their flints by grinding, nor did they put handles of any sort to them until they were taught by natives from the mainland who were brought over by the English.

They made *string* and rope of bark fibres, or of long tough grass, and also rough *baskets* of plaited grass, or of dried kelp.

Habitations.—Strange as it is that in a climate such as that of Tasmania, which, in the winter, is often cold and inclement, the natives had not learnt to wear clothes, it is almost as strange that they had no idea of building huts or dwellings properly so called. The most protection they ever made for themselves were rough breakwinds of the bark and boughs of trees. One of the early explorers thus describes them :—"They were formed of bark broken into convenient lengths and placed sloping wise against the elbowing part of some dead branch that has fallen off the distorted limbs of the gum tree, and a little grass is sometimes thrown over the top part. But after all their labour they have not ingenuity sufficient to place the slips of bark in such a manner as to preclude the free admission of the rain."

Food.—The aborigines were absolutely ignorant of any method of tilling the soil, nor had they any domestic animals (though after the settlers came they obtained dogs from them. of which they became very fond). They lived largely on shell-fish, such as oysters and mussels. as the large mounds of shells found in so many parts of the island along the sea coast .abundantly testifies. They hunted and eat wallaby, kangaroo and other wild animals, and were fond of birds and birds' eggs, though curiously enough they did not seem to have any idea of catching fish. To take the place of our bread and vegetables they eat fern roots, the pith of the tree fern, the centre of the grass tree, the native carrot, the large white fungus called "punk," but, above all, *native bread.* This is a fungus that grows in the ground, something like a truffle generally found near the roots of trees. All their food, when not eaten raw, was roasted ; they seem to have had no idea of boiling, not even of boiling water. It may be said to their credit that though they were great flesh eaters they were not cannibals.

Religion.—There is considerable difference of opinion as to the nature and extent of their religious ideas, due probably to the fact that later enquirers were misled by those with whom they conversed, expressing thoughts that had been taught them by missionaries and others. According to West "their religious ideas were exceedingly meagre and uncertain. They appear to have had no religious rites and few congenial ideas. They dreaded darkness and feared to wander from their fires; they recognised a malignant spirit, and attributed strong emotions to him."

Tribes.—Small as was the number of the aborigines of Tasmania, and at the time that the first settlements were made, that number probably did not exceed 2000, yet they were divided into numerous tribes, each with its own definite district recognised as its special territory. The tribes may be divided into four main groups, according to the part of the island on which they lived, namely:—(a) south; (b) west and north-east; (c) central and east; (d) north and north-east. They differed from one another little in appearance or in habits, though the southern natives are said to have been a finer race than those in the interior. The chief difference between them was that of speech, as the four groups mentioned had totally different languages. Even in the groups themselves there were marked differences of dialect. The central tribes known as the Oyster Bay and Big River, were the most implacable enemies of the settlers, and the notorious "Black Line" operations were directed against them chiefly. The tribes even in the same groups were often in feud with one another, but in later years they usually laid aside their differences and joined together in attacking the settlers, whom they naturally regarded as intruders.

History.—From the very first there were misunderstandings with the natives, and as early as May, 1804, there was an affray between the settlers and a mob of the blacks at Risdon, which resulted in several of the natives being killed. Occasional murders were committed by the blacks, and, on the other hand, some of the convict servants, shepherds and herdsmen in the back blocks, acted with great cruelty to any unfortunate aborigines who fell into their power. Still, the blacks were, on the whole, fairly friendly to the settlers till 1825. They used to visit the homesteads, and some mobs of them even came to Hobart, where they were well treated, and sent away with presents. But in 1825 a deadly feud began owing to the execution of some blacks for the murder of some settlers, and the natives then left the settlements, and did not visit them again except to rob and murder. The settlers in self defence made the war one of extermination, for a reign of terror existed in the remoter districts of the colony. At length, in 1830, the Governor, Colonel Arthur, made the famous attempt known as the *Black Line.* A levy en masse of all the available settlers was made, who, together with all the soldiers and constables that could be spared, made a grand total of some five thousand men. These were stationed in bodies so as to form a line across the country from St. Patrick's Head to Campbell Town, thence by the Lake River to Lake Arthur, and the Great Lake, from there by the Shannon and the Ouse down to the Derwent. This line was to advance across the country towards Forresters' Peninsula, with the idea of driving all the natives before them and at last capturing them in a body, and it was specially directed against the Oyster Bay and Big River tribes. But, as anyone who knows the character of the Tasmanian scrub where it has not been cleared would expect, the expedition was an utter failure. After weeks of the greatest exertion the line reached and rushed the Peninsula, to find not a single black there. In country of such a rough character it was the easiest thing in the world for the natives to slip through the weak points of the line, and this was what they had done. The actual result was one man and one boy captured during the course of the operations. But indirectly the "Black Line" did some good, as it impressed upon the natives a sense of the power of the government, and so helped towards the success of the conciliatory measures that were afterwards adopted. For the Government now listened to George Augustus Robinson, who for some years had been advocating the use of peaceful methods. He was a bricklayer in Hobart, and full of enthusiasm for the poor blacks, and he offered to go out into the bush and persuade them to come in. His offer was accepted, and, accompanied by some "tame" blacks, principally women, he journeyed throughout the length and breadth of the country, tracing the remnants of the tribes to their last hiding places. One by one he got them to submit, till at last, by 1835, every black in the island had come in, and Tasmania was cleared of its aborigines. Their numbers had greatly diminished. It is impossible to find out how many there were in the island when the settlers came in 1803. It has been estimated as high as 20,000, and as low as 700 to 1000. But, at any rate, the total number that Robinson brought in was only 203. As they came in they were sent at first to Swan Island, then to Gun Carriage Island, and finally to Flinder's Island. After Robinson had completed his work of bringing them in he was put in charge of the Flinders Island settlement, which office he held till 1838. But their numbers had diminished and were diminishing rapidly. The change in their habits, dress and habitations caused them to die off. In 1835 only 100 were left, in 1847 there were only 48. They were then removed to Oyster Cove, in the D'Entrecasteaux Channel. In 1854 there were only 16 left, in 1865 only four women remained, and the last of these died in 1877.

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